STOURBRIDGE
thechronicle
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15p when sold

Model maker's work that is fit for a king

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Landlord worries for the future if levy is introduced

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Don't worry, just pretending!

A GROUP that simulates injuries using make-up for fire service training events is appealing for new volunteers.

The West Midlands Fire Casualty Simulation Group helps fire stations across the region carry out realistic exercises.

It currently has 15 members but needs another 10.

An open day was held on Saturday at Stourbridge Fire Station to show off the effects they can create with make-up and the acting that is involved.

In recent weeks members have taken part in a simulated kitchen explosion in Hall Green.

They also featured in a mock-up car crash near the Bescot Stadium in Walsall, home of Walsall FC.

The blast scenario required some members to act as if trapped under masonry.

At Bescot, volunteers were cut free from cars.

The group works for free and takes part in exercises most weekends. To get involved, call organiser Adrienne Jemmet on 07903 033751.

FEAR OVER FACTORY'S HOURS BID

By Sarah Hazelwood

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STOURBRIDGE residents are up in arms over a factory's plan to extend its operations.

Quantum Works, in Enville Street, wants the removal of conditions which restrict its operating hours and ability to develop.

Residents are concerned about noise and pollution – but the firm says removing the conditions would enable it to be less disruptive.

Quantum, which specialises in fibreglass products, has submitted a planning application to Dudley Council requesting the removal of two conditions.

One specifies that no work should be undertaken before 7.30am and after 5pm between Monday to Friday, nor before 9am or after 1pm on Saturday, and not at all on Sundays and public holidays.

The other says that any development of the factory shall not commence until an agreement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

After battling the conditions in the past, homeowners in Maypole Drive, which sits at the back of the factory, fear that their concerns will be ignored.

Last year the residents objected to plans for a new extension at the factory which eventually went ahead.

John Rickwood, aged 79, who has lived in the area since 1964, said: "Over the past 10 years the factory has expanded at such a fierce rate that it's getting out of control and there seems to be nothing we can do to protect ourselves any more. I am furious and I simply don't like that the factory bosses think they can just make changes without any consideration for those living in the area. This benefits no-one but themselves.

"This is a residential patch and we are all worried as to how the removal of these conditions will affect our health and how the noise will impact even more upon our everyday lives.

"People have already moved out of Maypole because they couldn't stand the conditions and my late wife suffered a great deal from the fumes."

AWKWARD

"We really hope that Dudley Council stand by us and realise that a factory of this size should not be operating in this area. We all feel like we are being bullied to just accept these changes."

Janet Byfield, whose garden sits just metres away from one of the factory's extractor fans, said: "The council needs to stop this before it gets out of hand.

"We aren't doing this to be awkward, we are all genuinely concerned how this development could affect us because we already have to suffer.

"The factory is a thriving business but it is in the wrong place. A lot of people who I've spoken to aren't even aware of the planning application, so it seems only a select few of us have received a letter.

"When we moved here 26 years ago we were told Quantum would never be more than a storage unit but after witnessing the changes and living with the deterioration of conditions, over the years, it really has turned into a complete shambles."

Over the past decade residents have witnessed an influx of machinery and lorries coming onto the industrial site, which was formerly a warehouse and storage unit.

Mark Wooldridge, director at Quantum Works, said: "We are restricted on our hours at the moment, but by no means if the application is approved will we be operating 24 hours a day.

"Last year we had a small outer unit built on site which sports better sound insulation.

"So if these current restrictions are removed it will allow us to move production to an area which isn't so disruptive for residents.

"In our view if this application is approved it will be hugely beneficial to those living in this area.

"The factory has also improved on its fuel extraction, which we believe helps to significantly reduce pollution.

"If anyone ever has any issues or complaints I urge them to contact me directly so we can resolve them as quickly and effectively as possible."

Councillor Les Jones, cabinet member for regeneration, confirmed that Dudley Council's development control committee will determine the application at a meeting in the next few weeks.

He added: "The company has applied for permission to remove two restrictions placed as part of planning permission for an extension, which was agreed last year."

Anyone with any concerns can contact Mr Wooldridge on 01384 834422.

Front from left, firefighter Ian Yapp, Group Leader Adrienne Jemmett, Watch Commander Darren North, from the West Midlands Fire Service Academy, and Volunteer Jason Wooldrige with fellow group members

Group to fight on homes

A PRESSURE group has been formed to fight plans which could see up to 400 homes being built in Hagley, near Stourbridge.

Campaigners say the development would cause "catastrophic damage" to the area.

They will try to defeat Bromsgrove District Council's Core Strategy – a long-term plan for the area's regeneration.

An 11-strong group of parish councillors, residents and a planning consultant are drawing up a dossier of hundreds of objections.

A public meeting is planned soon and leaflets will go to hundreds of Hagley homes.

Fifty-five acres are being opened up for potential development by the council. The land, between Bromsgrove Road and Kidderminster Road, has been designated as an Area of Development Restraint (ADR) since 2005, giving it the same protection as the green belt.

But a district council report says the land, mainly fields, is only protected until the authority "decides to release it for development". The strategy says Hagley is suitable for a minimum of 219 homes to be built.

Hagley Parish Council chairman Steve Colella said: "If the plans are allowed to go unchallenged it would bring catastrophic damage."

Dog to aid the deaf

GENEROUS members of Stourbridge and Kingswinford Lions have paid for a guide dog to help deaf people.

They £5,500 to fund an animal for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People in memory of Lions member Derek Pitt, who died last year. The dog will be trained to alert its owner to certain sounds.

Past-president Arthur Peakman said: "Derek was always very concerned about helping deaf people and we thought this was an excellent way to remember him."

Specialist day centre shuts for £1.2m work

A SPECIALIST day centre in Stourbridge for adults with severe learning disabilities will be shut for the next six months while a £1.2million refurbishment is carried out.

Once work is completed on the Amblecote Centre, Stourbridge it will be renamed The Unicorn Centre after a pub called The Unicorn which once stood on the land between Brettell Lane and King William Street.

Refurbishment is to start this month and it is hoped that the centre will be reopened in September this year.

It will then be the only centre in the borough to offer support for people with severe learning disabilites and will give daytime support to those with the most complex needs.

It is hoped it will become a "centre of excellence" for a smaller number of people with profound disabilities.

Dudley Council spokesman Phil Parker said: "The centre will re-open in September following the £1.2m refurbishment.

"The internal refurbishment will include additional changing and toilet facilities. And when the centre reopens it will feature sensory rooms and areas dedicated to music, art and IT."

Council chiefs switched the name "reflect the changing nature of the centre once it reopens while also linking the building to its historical origins". The name has been chosen in consultation with staff, those who use the service and their carers.

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Colin Firth as King George VI at Wembley with one of Wyn Jenkins' microphones

Guy Pearce as King Edward VIII in the film, broadcasting with the replica torpedo microphone

Edward VIII makes his abdication speech broadcast which rocked the nation

Model maker Wyn's work is fit for a king

Wyn Jenkins in his workshop. Beside him is a gun from Primeval

Prop maker Wyn Jenkins had a key role in the making of Oscar-nominated film The King's Speech. He spoke to JOHN SCOTT

MICROPHONES loom large in The King's Speech, the film about the monarch with a stammer who was terrified of speaking in public.

All the more important, then, that every minute detail is taken into account when the movie props are created.

Enter model maker Wyn Jenkins, whose work has been used for dozens of films and TV dramas.

He painstakingly created a replica of all the 1930s microphones seen in the film, using pictures and film from events that rocked the British Royal Family.

Among them were the distinctive "torpedo" mic through which King Edward VIII announced his abdication, the desktop microphone and speaker set used by King George VI to address the nation from Buckingham Palace on his accession to the throne and the hanging mics employed by the King at Wembley and other key moments during the battle to beat his stammer.The startling success of The King's Speech brings great pride to Mr Jenkins, part of the design team whose work helped win their boss Judy Farr a place on the Oscars shortlist for one of the 12 coveted gold statuettes.

Leading actor Colin Firth is also considered a shoo-in for the best actor prize for his performance as King George VI.

Mr Jenkins, a 52-year-old father who operates from a workshop at his home in Harborne, Birmingham, copied a dozen microphones, attempting to keep in every detail right down to the braided wiring.

They feature in detail both in the film and in publicity shots.

Mr Jenkins has been a model maker for 20 years and already has the perfect prop to mark the awards night – a fake 5ft gold Oscar from the days when corporate theme nights were all the rage.

He explained: "I had worked on and off with Judy for years. We were both former students of Birmingham Polytechnic. She phoned to say they wanted me to make some specific microphones from the 1930s because none still existed and they could not hire them.

Quality

"It took about a month while the film was in pre-production in November 2009. It was interesting work because it was a quality job. Often the props I make are used on the set for one day and then discarded but these were central to the story line and so had to be made to high specifications.

"The original microphones were knocked up by the back room boys at the BBC. It was new technology for that era which was never mass produced and so I had to copy them from black and white photographs.

"I have been employed on numerous films and TV series but this is the first to be nominated for one Oscar, let alone a dozen! It is particularly satisfying when it was a film where my props had an important part to play on screen.

"I saw the film on Sunday and thoroughly enjoyed it but I have to admit to being astonished by its success . . . I think many of those involved were. We thought of it as a quirky English film which shows how wrong you can be in this game."

The film has topped the UK charts for three weeks, with audiences across the country applauding when the credits roll.

The attention to detail has been widely praised. One example is the rooms used by speech therapist Lionel Logue, which were lovingly recreated in consultation with his family.

George VI makes his wartime speech, a scene recreated in the film

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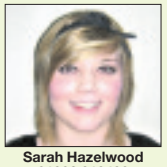

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Day of fun at the cricket club

PLENTY of fun for all the family is promised at Stourbridge Cricket Club's May Day Fun Day.

The event, on Monday, May 2 takes place at the club based at High Street in Amblecote.

Organisers promise lots off attractions to keep all ages entertained.

For the youngsters there will be games, rides, a treasure trail, face painting and much more.

The adults can enjoy a small market place, food stalls and the club bar.

During the afternoon there will be demonstrations from local groups.

There are still spaces available for anyone who would like a stall on the day.

For further details of the event, contact Mark on 07506 747619 or Emma on 07816 179940.

Landlord fears pubs will suffer from new levy

THE LANDLORD of two Stourbridge pubs has warned he could be driven out of town if his business is hit with a "late night opening" tax.

Dave Craddock runs the Plough and Harrow by Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge and The Duke William in the town centre's Coventry Street.

He says licensees will struggle if plans to charge venues up to £4,500 a year for opening after midnight get the go-ahead.

Dave Craddock at the pumps

Tough

It follows an announcement of new powers under the proposed Government's Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, currently going through parliament.

They would give councils the authority to impose a levy on nightspots that open after midnight to help cover policing costs.

But Mr Craddock said pubs had got it tough enough already, with as little as eight pence in the pound from the drinks they sell going into their pockets.

The rest – including 35 per cent in alcohol duty and 50 per cent in brewery charges – goes on overheads.

"I went to school here, live here and my first child is about to be born here," said 29-year-old Mr Craddock, of Corser Street, Oldswinford.

"I want to make my pubs, as well as the area in general, as nice as they can be. But new legislation allows local authorities to charge up to £4,500 a year for a licence for opening after midnight.

"And although both of my pubs close before midnight, there are occasions when I would want to open up for a customer's special occasion or other event, and I would still have to have the licence.

Manage

"When we are already paying so much, that extra £4,500 could well tip it over the edge and I would move to Shropshire, where there would be no point in having the extra local authority tax because there is not so much nightlife."

Deputy leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Les Jones, said: "When we see exactly what the law is we will have to make a judgement about how it might help us to manage the night-time economy.

"We will have to apply the law in a way that is in the public interest – it would not be a way of us saving money but of weighing up the benefits to the town."

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Taxi driver sentenced for passenger attack

Deep holes a 'risk to drivers'

A POTHOLE-cratered main road has been branded a "risk to drivers" amid claims a council failed to make repairs despite problems being reported more than a year ago.

Around 50 potholes opened up in Worcester Lane, between Stourbridge and Hagley, following the heavy snowfall in January 2010.

But despite the issue being reported to Dudley Council no repairs were ever carried out, residents say. The potholes have deepened during this year's big freeze.

Programme

Further repor ts have been made to the authority but despite some of the holes being marked out with paint no work has been carried out, it is claimed.

Retired school teacher Graham Quinlivan, aged 63, said the holes were "a risk to drivers".

"I personally reported all 50 of these potholes on Dudley Council's website. I received an acknowledgement but nothing was done."

Dudley council's cabinet member for transport, Councillor Angus Adams said: "Any reports of potholes from the public go into our ongoing programme of works for highways patching and pothole repairs, which saw the council fill more than 15,000 potholes during 2010."

Graham Quinlivan with one of the potholes in the lane

A TAXI driver who attacked a passenger for criticising his driving has been given a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £1,250 in compensation and costs.

A bystander joined in the attack on the passenger and his friend, who was knocked unconscious, a court heard.

Taxi driver Abdul Jabbar, from Vicarage Road, Lye, was given an eight-month sentence, suspended for two years, for pulling Wayne Clark from his private hire cab and kicking him. Mr Clark suffered a head wound and needed three stitches.

His friend Ryan Broadbent was knocked unconscious after attacked by bystander Arfan Rauf, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Rauf, of Grange Road, Lye, was also given a suspended sentence and ordered to pay £3,250.

Jabbar, aged 31, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Clark causing actual bodily harm. Rauf, 25, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Clark and Mr Broadbent, causing actual bodily harm.

Unpaid

Jabbar was ordered to pay £250 in compensation to Mr Clark, as well as £1,000 court costs, and to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work in the community.

Rauf was ordered to pay £2,000 in compensation to Mr Broadbent, £250 to Mr Clark and £1,000 in costs. He must also carry out 200 hours of unpaid work.

Recorder Martin Butterworth told them: "Your behaviour was appalling."

Mr Julian Elcock, prosecuting, said the victims and two other men had got into Jabbar's taxi in Stourbridge in the early hours of New Year's Day 2010. They dropped one man off in Netherton and had been heading towards Quarry Bank when Mr Clark described Jabbar's driving as "erratic".

The court heard that this led Jabbar to pull over and assault Mr Clark. Rauf, who was returning home from a night out, joined in and knocked Mr Broadbent out.

Defending solicitor for Jabbar, Mr Afzal Zaheer, said his client had asked the party to leave his taxi and they had refused.

He added that his client was no longer working as a taxi driver and had expressed his remorse. Diljit Bachada, for Rauf, said her client had since avoided drinking alcohol.

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Stourbridge Town Centre: Special reports

It's dying – Jennifer Evans and Malcolm Mountford

It used to be classier – Dennis and Iris Bryan

We love it – Diane Rollason and Esther Mandale

Shoppers' mixed feelings on town

Report by Christine Roberts

STOURBRIDGE shoppers have mixed opinions about the current state of their town centre – with views ranging from "it depresses me" to "it's a bostin' little place".

In total 24 retail premises currently lie empty in High Street, Lower High Street, Coventry Street, Market Street, The Ryemarket and Victoria Passage – on top of the seven stores and the old market now closed in the Crown Centre.

"Stourbridge is very sad – it's dying," said shopper **Jennifer Evans**, aged 64, of Bailey Court, just across the ring road from the Crown Centre and the Bell Street multi-storey car park. "It's a great shame the town has been let go."

Her partner, **Malcolm Mountford**, aged 67, said: "I've lived here all my life and we used to have four cinemas in Stourbridge once upon a time.

"You could buy literally everything in Stourbridge – but the atmosphere's just not the same now."

And 80-year-old **Iris Bryan**, of Belbroughton Road, Norton, Stourbridge, said: "I used to love our town centre.

"But now I don't come here very often – it depresses me.

"There was a classier kind of shop here when we first came to Stourbridge 40 years ago and there used to be a lovely Queen Anne window on one of the buildings just up the High Street. But it's just not like that now."

Narrow

Her husband, **Dennis Bryan,** also 80, who used to be clerk of works in the architects' department at Birmingham City Council, said: "It ought to be pedestrianised – the pavement in the top part of High Street is so narrow I don't know how they get away with it.

"This used to be a lovely market town but nothing that has been done over the years has improved Stourbridge at all."

Dudley Council is talking to Tesco about the possibility of improving pedestrian safety by widening narrow pavements along the High Street as part of the Crown Centre redevelopment. Under planning law, the supermarket giant also has to provide cash for other developments in the area, which could fund the High Street scheme.

And the current grim view that some shoppers have of Stourbridge town centre is rejected by others.

Esther Mandale, aged 36, a mother-of-two, of Duncombe Street, Wollaston, said: "I often come here with my mother for a mooch – it's much nicer than Merry Hill, which we find tiring.

"I like the clothes boutiques and can always find something I want here."

Her mother, **Diane Rollason,** aged 61, of Rothesay Drive, Wordsley, said: "It's nice and busy, with a lot of students.

"We are also looking forward to something being done with the Crown Centre."

Plans for £50m centre look set to be approved

STOURBRIDGE'S long-awaited £50million new Crown Centre development should get the go-ahead within the next six weeks.

It should pave the way for local traders to ring up an estimated extra £200,000 a week through their tills.

And that is on top of the estimated £1million a week that Tesco should earn from its 60,000sq ft superstore within the scheme.

The president of Stourbridge Chamber of Trade, Peter Cox, said the town had been "treading water" while there was uncertainty about the future development of the Crown Centre.

"We can all settle down once we know the dates and construction starts – it will bring the town back to life," he said.

Deserted – the old Crown Centre in Stourbridge currently bordered off

Rebuilding

Councillor Les Jones, deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "There's no uncertainty about it – it's 'when, not if'. The planning application is likely to go through in the next six weeks and then we can get on with the task of rebuilding the Crown Centre."

Councillor Jones added that Tesco could expect an extra £1m a week through its tills from its own store. "About 20 per cent of customers will spill out into the other town centre shops, which would mean an extra £200,000 a week for them," he said.

"It will be extremely good for niche market stores, with an extra 200,000 people attracted into the town over the course of a year.

"There will be major upheaval while the development is carried out – it will be a very painful process. But if we don't do something, Stourbridge will die."

Tony Fletcher, corporate affairs manager for Tesco, said it was hoped demolition work, including knocking down the Bell Street multi-storey car park linked to the Crown Centre, would start later this year and construction would begin early in 2012.

"With a following wind we hope to open by Christmas 2012," he said. "Tesco has been looking at this project for a very long time and was thwarted when one developer didn't go through with it – and now we have taken on the plan ourselves.

"The Crown Centre is in desperate need of care and attention and this regeneration with revitalise the area." The plans include a two-level underground car park to be built below Tesco's, which would be open to the public generally – but only for use up to three hours at a time.

Clock

Dudley Council's existing parking charges would be maintained but customers shopping at Tesco would be able to reclaim some of the cost. Eight retail outlets, as well as the superstore, are planned for the Crown Centre and Tesco has pledged to retain the existing clock featuring the Stourbridge Lion locomotive and to relocate a mosaic of Stourbridge's coat of arms nearby in the piazza at the front of the new superstore.

The project will involve creating a major new road junction on to the ring road. Bell Street – currently running one way off the ring road – will become two-way, with traffic signals.

The current junction at the other side of Bell Street car park will be sealed off to create the entrance to the underground car park, with motorists using an exit on to Crown Lane.

It may be Cool, but it's lonely

IT'S a lonely, desolate place – in the heart of Stourbridge's bustling town centre. Just one shop remains open in the main part of the Crown Centre – surrounded by eight deserted premises.

Only pigeons now walk underneath the clock featuring the famous Stourbridge Lion locomotive, which is in an area that has been sealed off for safety reasons.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the town, another 24 shops lie empty and the Farmer's Market, which used to be a regular feature in Coventry Street, has pulled out.

All of this should be transformed by the end of 2012. But, there will be a great deal of disruption and upheaval while the building work is carried out.

And in the meantime, store manager Adrian Rozzier and his nine-strong team at the Cooltrader discount frozen food branch, are ploughing a lonely furrow as the sole retail outlet in the Crown Centre. Cooltrader has been alone since the departure last weekend of shopkeeper Norma Griffiths, aged 61, who ran Norma's Cosmetics for 29 years.

"It feels lonely and a bit of a struggle," said Mr Rozzier. "There are so many unanswered questions for our future."

But Stourbridge Chamber of Trade president Peter Cox, who also runs the Music Centre in Lower High Street, said: "When Tesco's does open a lot of other businesses will want to open."

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Attractions

There's a Discovery Trail with a variety of splendid all-weather attractions such as Twilight Cave to see free flying bats, jumping rats and the extraordinary Aye aye; Seaquarium to view wonderful creatures of the deep; TV Star Mark O'Shea's Reptile World with its incredible collection of snakes and reptiles from all around the globe – who knows you may even meet Mark O'Shea when he presents his special Reptile Encounters!

There's Creepy Crawlies – home to creatures that haunt the night – and friendly animal encounters along with a Sea Lion Show performed several times each day to packed audiences. You can also visit the Hippo Lakes, home to the largest family group – or pod – of hippo in the country, with its wonderful viewing platform high above the lake.

Direct

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Each ticket admits a family of up to four people before the park closes for winter on November 4, 2011. Whilst amusement rides are not included as part of the prize, multi-ride wristbands and ride tickets are available to purchase on the day.

Further information: www.wmsp.co.uk

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question:

What exhibit at West Midland Safari Park has a viewing platform:

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Their highly acclaimed fifth album 'Come Around Sundown' became their third consecutive album to debut at number 1 when it topped the UK album charts on release, claiming both the biggest week one sales of the year and the biggest ever first week digital sales along the way.

Like last year's Hyde Park show, their forth-coming December 2010 arena shows sold out in seconds and the Kings of Leon's Summer 2011 concerts are set to be one of the highlights of next year's live calendar.

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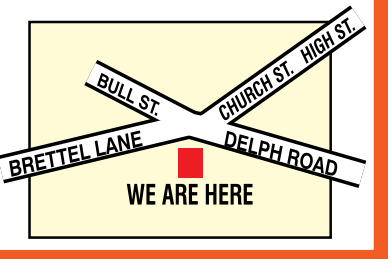

Search is on for young heroes of emergency

ST JOHN Ambulance is seeking local nominations for its annual Young First Aider of the Year Awards.

A nominee could be a young person who has used vital first aid to be the difference between a life lost and a life saved, or someone who has helped an injured person. The charity is seeking young people who have acted quickly, calmly and effectively in an emergency.

The awards are open to everyone under aged 18 but the closing date for nominations is tomorrow (February 18). Winners will be invited to a special ceremony in London in May.

Last year's10 medal winners included a 13-year old girl who gave vital first aid to a 20-month-old baby who was choking, and a 16-year-old boy who was at the scene of a road traffic accident and dealt with a casualty who suffered head injuries.

For a nomination form, go to www.sja.org.uk/sja/young-people/young-first-aider-of-the-year. Alternatively, call Sandra Stocker on 020 7324 4082/4083 or email: sandra.stocker@nhq.sja.org.uk

Band invites followers to be in the latest video

AN AWARD WINNING band will shoot their next video in Stourbridge – and want fans to be a part of it.

Grunge rock band Weak13, fronted by Nick J Townsend from Kidderminster, will be filming for their video You Don't Love Me at the music complex Base Studios at the end of February.

The group now want their followers to get in touch so they can be in the music video.

This is the band's ninth music video and is set to be the main single from their forthcoming album to be released in April.

Last year they won the Best Music Video award at the London Limelight Film and Arts Awards for their video Wake Down.

Band founder Townsend is responsible for their musical and artistic direction.

Their music ranges from industrial metal fused with death metal guitars to dark electro beats entwined with Low tuned acoustic guitars.

Townsend said: "The special effects in Wake Down by Trinity Pyrotechnics Ltd and arranged by Matt Harley from Kidderminster really gave such a professional edge to the video.

Reunited

"We're happy he's on board for our next big budget music video."

For their latest video the band, which also features Neel Parmar on drums and Wesley Smith on bass, will be re-united with Midland film maker Martyn Kilvert, who has directed three of their previous efforts.

Filming will begin on February 26, and from April the band will be signed to Basement Sound Records.

Chris Murphy, from Basement Sound Records, said: "The band wanted to invite some of the loyal fans that have been following the music of Weak13 and Nick J Townsend for inclusion in an important section of the new Weak13 music video."

If you would like to be involved, email a small recent photo of yourself and a contact number to weak13@live.co.uk but do so before February 19.

Nick J Townsend, back, Wesley Smith, left and Neel Parmar are preparing to shoot their latest music video

Founder and frontman Nick J Townsend on stage with Weak13

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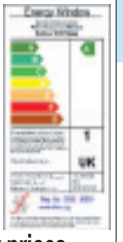

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Holiday offers go on as travel shop shuts

THE Star Extra Travel shop in Wolverhampton has closed.

The shop, located next to the Express & Star's main reception in Queen Street and used by readers for collecting brochures and making bookings, shut on Friday.

All other arrangements for customers will stay the same. Departures will continue to be promoted in the newspaper and the telephone number for brochure requests of 01902 319999 will not change.

Operator

Readers can continue to book their places by phoning the tour operator once they have read the brochure.

The advertisements in the Express & Star will still point readers to the newspaper's website www.expressandstar.com/starextratravel for further details and readers can make bookings through the website. In addition a carousel in Express & Star main reception will display brochures. Star Extra Travel staff will also be able to meet customers in reception, on request, to answer queries.

Viv Birch, Midland News Association promotions manager, said: "The shop was set up as Star Readers more than 20 years ago and thousands of people have used the facility.

"However, more and more customers now book direct with the tour operators. Also many readers access information via the website and make their bookings online with a link through to the respective tour operator.

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thechronicle

Bail bid in girlfriend death case

JUDGES have summoned bailed Greek death suspect Luke Walker to attend a last-ditch legal bid by his family to convince the courts to allow him home.

Walker, aged 23, was to be allowed to speak directly to judges at the appeal hearing, which was taking place as the Chronicle went to press.

He was asking them to lift the bail condition keeping him in Greece.

The Brierley Hill man is accused of killing his girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman, aged 20, by actual bodily harm as they were in Crete looking for summer work.

It is the first time Walker has appeared in person before the Greek courts since the initial hearing following her death in May last year.

His father Patrick, who runs Brierley Hill-based Walker's Electrics, said they believed the fact Walker was making an appearance at the hearing was "very positive".

"It means he will be given the chance to speak in his own favour, which he hasn't had until now," he said last week.

"He's a bundle of nerves at the moment. He doesn't want to get his hopes up too high but we think it could be the light at the end of the tunnel at last."

He said Walker was buying a suit for the occasion.

Patrick Walker was flying out to the hearing in the hope that he would be able to buy a ticket home for his son.

Luke Walker has yet to see his elder sister and other relatives – apart from his father, mother and elder brother Ryan – since he left for Crete early last year.

The family has spent about £55,000 in legal fees and living costs since Walker's arrest, including travel between England and Crete.

They have had to remortgage their house to help fund the battle.

Disgraced dentist's contract terminated

A DISGRACED Stourbridge dentist who cheated patients out of thousands of pounds has had his NHS contract terminated.

Jaspal Singh Bachada was jailed for 20 months after admitting two charges of fraud, one relating to conning money out of the NHS and the other to defrauding patients at his practice at the Hollies in Hagley Road.

NHS Dudley has now terminated his contract, so he will no longer be able to work at his practice.

The NHS contract of Jaspal Singh Bachada has been terminated

The General Dental Council will decide later this year if the 37-year-old Bachada, of Red Lake Drive, should be struck off the register.

Kimara Sharpe, director of community engagement and primary care at NHS Dudley, which commissions dentalcare, said: "We have terminated the NHS dental contract of Mr Bachada.

"I would like to reassure patients that we are confident that the standard of care received at the practice has been of an acceptable level."

The only dentist offering NHS treatment at The Hollies is now Dr Faris Elia.

Bachada's former patients have been advised to contact NHS Dudley on 01384 321728 to find an alternative NHS dentist.

Licence

Bachada was jailed in October along with co-accused Ikhlaq Hussain, 38, of Alum Rock, Birmingham, who was found guilty of the same charges following a trial earlier in the year.

Hussain was given 30 months in jail, to run concurrently for each charge. Bachada was given 20 months after Judge Robert Juckes gave him credit for his guilty plea.

During the hearing, the court was told that Bachada was also practising as an NHS dentist at one of his other surgeries in Blackfriars Avenue, Droitwich, despite not having an NHS licence from the South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Patients paid Bacahda a total of £81,450.71 for NHS treatment over the two-year scam while he also received an estimated £20,000 from the NHS for this work.

The court heard Hussain helped his business partner claim money by fraudulently using the name of other dentists at the practice who were licensed.

Dial up energy advice

RESIDENTS in Dudley are being encouraged to use the council's energy advice line for information on the new wave of home insulation and heating grants available this year.

The Dudley energy advice service provides up to date, impartial advice about Government energy efficiency grants, discount energy schemes, tariff switching and social tariffs for households in receipt of benefits.

Councillor David Simms, Dudley council's cabinet member for housing, said: "The council's energy advice service is keen for everyone in the borough to become aware of how vital home energy efficiency is. There are a number of schemes and grants out there to help improve this and to help households save money.

"It's important that householders who find themselves struggling to meet the cost of heating and lighting their homes seek help." The Dudley energy advice line is on 0800 29 22 679.

Artist Keith is putting some of his Wisdom up for sale

Keith Turley with a portrait of Norman Wisdom that will be up for auction

CAPTURING the essence of one of the country's most famous faces has been a happy task for artist Keith Turley.

The 60-year-old painter has created portraits of several famous folk over the decades, from Eric Morecambe and Benny Hill to Leslie Phillips and Ronnie Barker. His latest work is of legendary comic actor Sir Norman Wisdom who died, aged 95, last October.

Mr Turley's paintings are created on commission for The Heritage Foundation, which is holding a celebrity lunch in London at the Marriott Hotel on March 6 to remember Sir Norman's life.

Rick Wakeman and former Bee Gee Robin Gibb will be among those attending, and the painting of Sir Norman will be auctioned off for charity.

The portrait took Mr Turley, of Heathbrooke Avenue, Wall Heath, around six weeks to create. "I enjoy doing them very much as these entertainers are so well-known," he said.

Wedding open day at venue

BRIDES and grooms-to-be can see what one of Dudley's most historic buildings has to offer for their big day at an open event next month.

Couples will be able to find information on cars, wedding cakes, balloons, photographers, bridal wear, flowers and much more at the open day at Dudley's Grade I listed Priory Hall on March 5.

Models will stage marriage ceremonies while fashion shows will run throughout the day.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for property, Councillor Adrian Turner, said: "Priory Hall is an extremely popular wedding venue and we expect the open day to be another busy and successful event."

The open day will be held between 10am and 4pm.

For more information, call 01384 815373.

Guide links buses and trains

PEOPLE travelling on the Birmingham to Worcester rail line can now get fresh information on journeys.

The Stourbridge Line User Group (Slug) has published a unique guide showing almost every conceivable journey that can be made from Stourbridge Line stations, which include Kidderminster.

Information on train to bus connections has been collected together in one document which can be downloaded from the group's website www.stourbridgelineusergroup.info

Slug officer Roger Davis, who has compiled the guide, has painstakingly assembled a table of bus times together with maps showing where to catch a bus after leaving a station.

"Amongst its campaigns, the Stourbridge Line User Group lists "quality of connections" as a standard it aims to achieve for passengers," he said.

"Not all journeys are made by rail alone and buses play a significant role in bringing passengers to their rail station or taking them onward from there.

"The websites of Centro, Worcestershire County Council and Traveline provide comprehensive information and the designers are deserving of praise.

"However, the fact is that Centro and Worcestershire CC websites only offer localised information. I have designed this guide to show, at a glance, destinations which can be reached in two counties."

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thechronicle

Vital work with a dash of the James Bonds

As more than £5million worth of counterfeit goods are seized across the Black Country, CHARLOTTE CROSS takes a peek behind the scenes at a Trading Standards operation

UNDERCOVER officers, false identities, covert operations and cross-continental counterfeiting rings.

It sounds like the tagline from a James Bond novel – but it's all just par for the course for one Black Country trading standards team.

Based in offices in St James Road, Dudley, the 16 members of operation staff deal with everything from under-age sales of alcohol and cowboy builders to dodgy Gucci watches.

And it's big business. Some £5.7million of fakes including copied DVDs, computer games and bogus designer clothes has been seized across the Black Country in just 10 months, new figures reveal.

Rip-off designer belts, England football shirts and Ugg boots were confiscated by Trading Standards.

Illegal copies of the latest Hollywood blockbusters and hit console games make up the bulk of the haul.

The figures, for the financial year to date, show a huge rise on 2009/10, when around £1.3m of fake merchandise was confiscated.

Since April, Dudley Council's Trading Standards has seized goods worth £1.4m, up from £155,000 in 2009/10.

Purchases

Manager Mike Chambers said: "Our job has become a lot more intense over the years – we're not just watching some bloke on a market stall any more.

"Much of our work starts online, where we often make covert test purchases to see whether goods really are counterfeit."

This, he revealed, includes the creation of a completely fabricated identity – who cannot be named for obvious reasons – who has his or her own eBay account and own credit card, set up with the co-operation of the credit card company.

Mr Chambers, who has worked in Trading Standards for more than 20 years and has been running Dudley' Council's department for around two and a half, said much of the increase is down to the recession.

"The cash economy thrives during a recession, and when people think there's a buck to be made they come out of the woodwork," he said. "That can be counterfeit goods or rogue traders."

The motorway network and being on the fringes of a big city means Dudley gets a significant amount of counterfeit fraud, he said.

The West Midlands as a whole is considered a "hotspot" because of the inland port in Coventry, he added. "It's all very well done, and highly organised. You get the components being delivered separately, to be put together by someone in this country," he said.

"Even some of the manufacturers have told us the products we have seized are extremely good copies."

Counterfeiting often follows popular fashions and trends.

The big craze last Christmas was for Ugg boots, counterfeit versions of which were being sold for £120 per pair, so even the price wouldn't tip off an unsuspecting customer. The World Cup last year also saw a number of fake England shirts appear on the market.

Another raid discovered fake Rolex and Cartier watches, the genuine articles of which would be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, while in another, police discovered a haul of "designer" belts in what they had thought was a cannabis factory.

Mr Chambers said: "We have been surprised to see just how much counterfeiters make from their illegal activities.

Prison

In one case a counterfeiter was making over £100,000 per year. That is why any counterfeiters who are taken to court can expect lengthy prison sentences."

There is now a regional intelligence cell in Stafford which collates every Trading Standards report across 14 Midland authorities to spot patterns and warn of potential suspects.

This also allows cross-border work, enabling authorities to uncover the full scale of one person's criminal history.

The cell also examines trends in what cowboy builders are up to. Recently, there has been a boom in traders offering jet-washing of roofs. A few months before it was re-laying driveways.

The number of traders offering "green" services – such as "insulating paint" or solar panels – has also been on the rise. "People are so switched-on to saving money and saving the planet by insulating their homes better, it's another example of them spotting a niche market," Mr Chambers said. "Because these kind of traders are transient in nature, it can be extremely difficult to track the rogue ones down.

"People part with large amounts of money for things they don't need, are shoddily done or even not done at all."

Currently, the biggest challenge for the team is dealing with crime targeted at elderly and vulnerable people.

A person once duped is added to a "sucker list" of easy targets which is sold on to other criminals.

"There is lots of information available on the internet that we might not be aware of – it's big business," said Mr Chambers.

Dodgy

And then there is undercover work – not only test purchases of suspected dodgy goods, but also routine exercises checking on which shops are selling alcohol, cigarettes and fireworks to underage teenagers.

"It's very exciting, and it's challenging working in this department," Mr Chambers said.

"Of course, it's not all undercover operations and raids – some of it's day-to-day things like food and product safety.

"But I like to think that, through our officers, we are making a real difference to the people in Dudley."

Trading standards manager Mike Chambers with some of the goods

Fake Rolex watches

Labels on counterfeit Ugg boots

Just some of the counterfeit tobacco which was seized

Some bootleg bottles of Glen's Vodka

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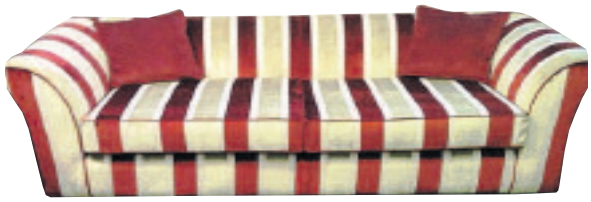
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Thieves jailed for £22,000 metal raid from company

TWO metal thieves put the future of a Black Country firm at stake when they stole £22,500 of aluminium castings, a court heard.

Frank Wilde, aged 30, and Shane Stone, 29, made a total of five trips to MJM Fettling in Sunbeam Street, Wolverhampton, in a stolen van and used the company's forklift truck to load it up with their haul of metal.

Mick Hewitt, owner of the small family firm, praised the work of police which he said saved him from going out of business.

In a victim impact statement read to Wolverhampton Crown Court, he said: "My whole livelihood was at stake. I can't thank West Midlands Police enough for recovering the metal. Without them, my business would have gone under."

Wilde was jailed for 22 months after pleading guilty to burglary, handling stolen beer kegs, theft of a van and taking a van without consent. Stone, who admitted burglary, was given a 12-month prison term suspended for two years, 12 months' supervision and ordered to pay £250 costs.

Mercedes

The court heard Wilde and Stone broke into the premises on Blakenhall Business Park on October 1 using an angle-grinder to force locks.

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, said police on observation at a unit rented by Wilde in Stallings Lane, Lower Gornal, spotted two vans entering shortly afterwards. Officers went in and found the metal and the angle-grinder. They also discovered stolen beer kegs worth £9,400.

One of the vans, a white Mercedes, was stolen from Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton, on September 22 after the owner left the keys in the ignition. The court also head that Wilde's DNA was found in an Express & Star van stolen on July 11 after Wilde snatched the keys from the driver. It was later found abandoned.

Miss Sarah-Jayne Buckingham, defending prolific offender Wilde, of Berrybush Gardens, Sedgley, said he tried to go straight by setting up his own kitchen-fitting business after his last release from jail but was drawn back into his old ways.

Mr Ekwal Tiwana, defending Stone, of Chainmakers Close, Coseley, said he was a "hired hand" who had taken part after losing his job and finding himself in financial difficulties.

Judge Martin Butterworth told them: "This was a professional burglary, well planned and well executed."

Shane Stone admitted burglary and was given a suspended sentence

Ducks just love their new home

Dudley Zoo keeper Luke Millar with one of the two new mandarin ducks

ROMANCE was in the air at Dudley Zoo just in time for Valentine's Day – thanks to the arrival of "Mr and Mrs" mandarin ducks.

The young male and female have been transferred to the zoo from Golders Hill zoo in Barnet, London, as part of a major breeding programme.

Dudley Zoo spokeswoman Jill Hitchman said: "Mandarin ducks are a symbol of fidelity in the eastern world as they are believed to be monogamous. Often, pairs are presented as wedding gifts to Japanese newlyweds. Ours are settling in well."

The adult male has a red bill, reddish face and a large white crescent above the eye. The breast is purple with two vertical white bars, and two orange "sails" at the back. The female has a white eye-ring and stripe running back from the eye, and has a small white flank stripe and a pale tip to its bill.

Mandarin duck numbers in the far east have declined due to habitat destruction and hunting .

Demonstrators abused police, court is told

TWO MEMBERS of the English Defence League have been given conditional discharges for abusing police during a demonstration against the building of a mosque in Dudley.

Unemployed Stewart Hawkins, aged 33, of Peak Drive, Lower Gornal, and Thomas Wolley, 22, a scaffolder of Clickheaton Road, Bradford, both admitted using threatening behaviour in Dudley on July 17 last year.

In separate cases before Dudley magistrates each was given an 18-month conditional discharge and told to pay £85 costs. Mrs Jan Holman, prosecuting, said the EDL had organised a protest against the building of a mosque in Dudley. She added that Wolley was among 150 to 200 EDL supporters in Tipton Road, where missiles were thrown at police.

Wolley was captured on CCTV being aggressive and swearing at police, although he had not thrown missiles. Mrs Holman said Hawkins shouted abuse at police and repeatedly ignored their requests to leave after he had been shepherded from Stafford Street into Dock Lane.

Flood defences in line for cash

TWO FLOOD DEFENCE schemes in the Black Country are in line for a share of a £521million cash pot which has been scaled down due to Government spending cuts.

A study of the River Tame, which runs through the Black Country and wider West Midlands, aims to provide protection for around 5,000 homes.

And Sheepwash Local Nature Reserve, one of the river's flood storage areas based in Sandwell, is in need of vital repairs.

Both schemes featured on a list of 39 new national projects unveiled by junior environment minister Richard Benyon last week. He said 21 of the new flood and coastal defence projects would provide extra protection to more than 13,000 households. The remaining projects would provide "vital repairs and safety enhancements" to existing defences.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs expects to spend at least £1.2 billion on flooding and coastal erosion over the next four years.

This compares to £2.36 billion during the previous four years.

Men are wanted in saddle

A STOURBRIDGE cycling club is urging men to join up for its 2011 challenge.

Stourbug – Stourbridge Bicycle User Group – has launched its 40-mile challenge with an offer of training.

It takes place on Saturday, June 18. Anyone over 18 can take part.

Stourbug chairman Russell Eden said: "Historically our annual challenge has been for ladies only, but during 2010 our male membership has increased which has led us to open up the 2011 challenge to both men and women."

Details: www.stourbug.org.uk or info@stourbug.org.uk

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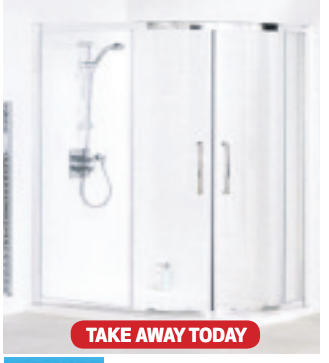

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So you could help us to continue building a firm financial future for the **Mary Stevens Hospice** for **only £1 per week** and, at the same time, give yourself the chance to win a share of the **£3,000** worth of weekly prizes. It is such an easy way to show your support and appreciation of the wonderful work carried out by our Matron, her staff and the volunteers.

Every Wednesday morning, immediately after the computerised draw is made some lucky person in the borough receives that magical phone call to tell them they have just won the Jackpot! As well as the big **£2,000** prize, every week other players win **£500**, **£100** and **forty win £10.00** ***(An additional £1,000 in total)***

Be part of the winning team with the **Mary Stevens Hospice!** Sign up online **www.marystevenshospice.co.uk** or call **01384 860011.**

Letters of Thanks!

Dear Mrs Hemming

It was a wonderful surprise to get the prize cheque last week, my husband is 85 and I am 82 and I am recovering from a triple heart bypass so this money is very much appreciated and really cheered us up. I enclose a donation towards some things for your fete or use as you wish. Would you let me have a form for my husband to join the lottery, when you first spoke to me about it he was in hospital and things were a bit difficult.

Yours sincerely, Mrs B.C. Pedmore, Stourbridge.

published with consent

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you so much for the cheque which I received today - What a Surprise! The first time I have ever won anything, It is only a small thank you, but I am enclosing a cheque for the Hospice which I hope will help in some small way. Your agent who collects my money is a delight, she is always helpful and pleasant.

Yours sincerely, K Chadbourne

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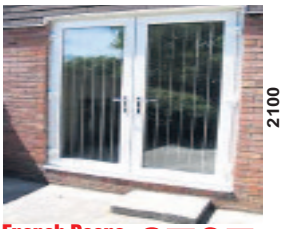

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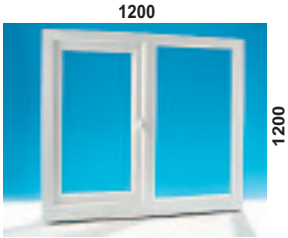

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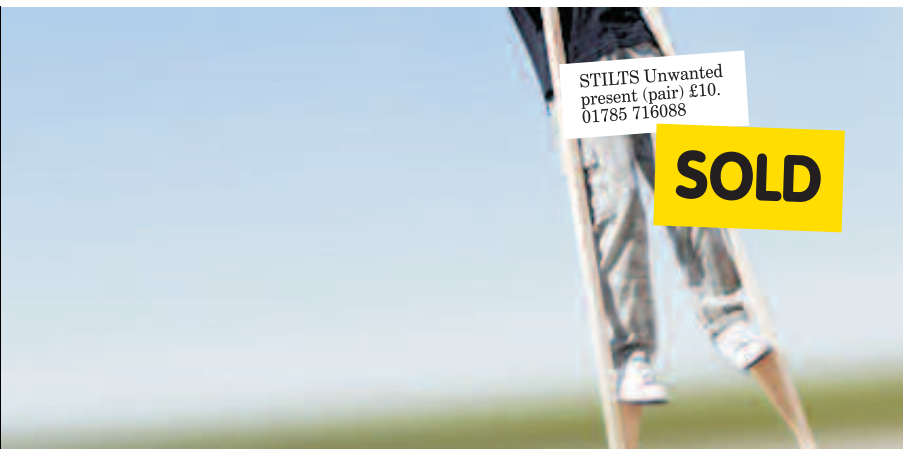

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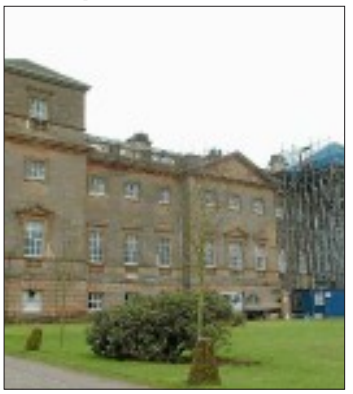
Roof of hall being restored 86 years after major blaze

A TRADITIONAL roof at Hagley Hall is being returned it to its former glory in a project which has been decades in the making.

Fire tore through the hall on Christmas Eve, 1925 leaving it uninhabitable for four years and destroying its pitched roof. In 1929 workers replaced it with a flat roof which has been in place ever since.



A view of the steelwork from the rear of the hall

Over the years the Lyttelton family, who live in the property, have had to foot the bill for leaks running through the felt roof which caused damp problems.

Current owner of the hall, Lord Cobham, Christopher Charles Lyttelton, has paid for half of the £800,000 works with English Heritage match-funding the project.

A 100-ton crane lifted more than 40 tons of steel onto the roof of the Grade I listed building, near Stourbridge, to allow it to be rebuilt.

Elements

Renovation specialist firm Treasure and Son has now put up almost all of the new steel framework for the new mansard roof.

A mansard roof is a four-sided roof with two slopes on each side.

The roof will reach around 12ft into the air.

The 12th Viscount Cobham, said: "This is one of the final elements never finished after the fire all those years ago, mainly due to the costs involved."

Longer term plans for the future of the hall include repairing more of the park's ornamental features, such as the Temple of Theseus, and ultimately reopening it to the public.

Lord Cobham admires the steelwork at Hagley Hall where the roof is being restored after 86 years

Elderly targets of cons

ELDERLY residents have been targeted by a series of fake callers and attempted distraction burglaries.

Officers are investigating incidents in Clent, Halesowen and the Wyre Forest. They think the incidents could be linked.

All involved people talking their way into the homes of elderly women living alone, although nothing was stolen.

In Clent, near Stourbridge, a man in a blue anorak called at the home of a pensioner between 10.30am and 11am on Tuesday, February 8 saying he needed to inspect her lintels.

He was taken through to the back of the house and spent several minutes looking at her windows.

A man also called at a pensioner's home in Bewdley claiming to be from the "water board". He said he needed to check the property's water pressure.

She let him in but became suspicious and challenged him, at which point he left.

Hospice launches course to share advice with the carers

CARERS of people with long-term conditions are being invited to a new weekly programme at Mary Stevens Hospice.

The six-week course is designed to give carers a chance to share ideas and advice.

Weekly sessions, held every Monday at 10am, will involve problem solving and advice on exercise and diet, while participants will receive a booklet and CD.

Nurse therapist Ruth Davies and occupational therapist Alison Jinks are running the course.

"It's about people in the same situation being given a chance to meet each other in a relaxed environment," said Ruth Davies.

The course is free to attend and the first session is next Monday (February 21). Call the hospice, which is based on Hagley Road, Oldswinford, on 01384 443010 for details.

Metal traders clinch £6m business deal

AN INTERNATIONAL metal trading firm from Lye is celebrating scooping around £6million of new business with companies in Turkey.

Peter Mathews, managing director and chairman of Black Country Metals Ltd, brokered the deal after a series of meetings with business chiefs in the country.

Now the 64-year-old is urging other Black Country firms to go global. He said that firms would benefit from the move, especially during the tough economic times.

More than 350 workers are employed worldwide by Black Country Metals Ltd and its associated companies.

"Doing business in Turkey has proved very successful and it could prove very fruitful for the Black Country," said Mr Mathews. "It is important for businesses in the region to find new markets. We should be looking to global markets to show just what the Black Country has to offer."

The deal will not lead to new jobs at this stage but may do so in the future if more business is generated.

Mr Mathews secured the new business while on a trip last month as part of the UK Trade & Investment's West Midlands Environmental Technologies Cluster visit to Istanbul and Ankara.

"Business needs to fly the flag for the region," added Mr Mathews.

"We need to look further outside this market to countries abroad for business."

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Big screen debut for silly sleuth

Drake on film, just 25 years further on

A BLACK COUNTRY playwright has hosted the world premiere of his first film, Inspector Drake: The Movie, 25 years after first creating the character for a Brierley Hill amateur theatre group.

David Tristram, who now lives at Highley, near Bridgnorth, chose the first person to play Inspector Drake, Stourbridge am-dram actor Alan Birch, to return to the role of the bungling detective in his low-budget comedy.

Glamorous

The film was shot for less than £10,000 and had its first screening at Bridgnorth's Theatre-on-the-Steps on Friday in front of a capacity audience, many dressed in dinner suits or glamorous gowns.

Mr Tristram told the audience that when he first thought about writing a play, a quarter of a century ago, he was told that the most popular stories were comedies or whodunits, so combined the two for Inspector Drake's Last Case. That proved, in fact, to be the first of several plays involving the sleuth performed by Flying Ducks Theatre Company.

The Drake comedies have also become popular with other theatre groups around the English-speaking world and the premiere here was followed by first screenings in Australia and New Zealand.

Pictured left to right, Alan Birch as Inspector Drake, the film's director David Tristram and Steve Witney as Sergeant Plod at the world premiere

The film is set in 1930s England as Drake and his dim-witted assistant Sergeant Plod (the scene-stealing Steve Witney) investigate after a severed head is found in the grounds of a mansion.

Slapstick

In style it is similar to the Airplane and Austin Powers movies with lots of sight gags, slapstick and double entendres.

There are also recurring jokes at the expense of popular family film The Railway Children.

The movie was filmed on location in Shropshire, on the Severn Valley Railway and in the Black Country.

Costs were kept down by amateur actors and well-wishers providing their services free of charge, said Mr Tristram.

He added: "This movie was made with no money, but a whole lot of love."

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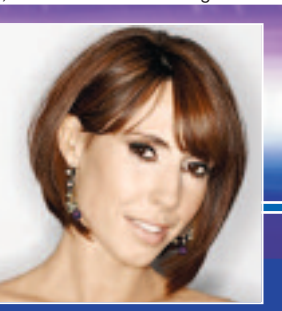

TV listings start – page 26

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING

Theatre and show round-up – page 25

Reviews and gigs – page 30

Fighting-fit Shayne will not allow X Factor to fade

By Sarah Hazelwood

SHAYNE WARD first graced our screens in 2005 but now he's back after three years with a new album and a new sound.

The X Factor winner is kicking of his UK tour at the Wolverhampton Civic, on March 15, following the release of his third album Obsession.

Hosting an array of hits from his first record-breaking single, That's My Goal, to the R 'n' B fused You Hang Up, the tour will also reveal a side to Shayne that fans have never seen.

Boasting a more mature sound, with live band instrumentals, this latest collection is a sure sign that the 26-year-old, once branded Britain's version of Justin Timberlake, has taken his time producing an album that truly reflects his vocal abilities and personality.

The Manchester heart-throb, picture right, said: "It is really great to be back, so much time has gone into making the album so I'm looking forward to seeing the reception it gets on the tour.

"Vocally and physically I have never been so strong, I am very eager to get myself back out there and try new things. I felt that it was important that we didn't just churn out another album because my earlier releases were all a bit of a whirlwind. Obsession is a lot more focussed and experimental.

"I have never been to Wolverhampton before, but I am very excited to perform at the Civic and meet some new fans."

His first album, Shayne Ward, shot straight to number one and went platinum in a fortnight.

Six years since he first graced our screens, Ward is fighting fit and ready to take the music world by storm once again.

Tickets are £25 and can be purchased from the Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or on-line at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Chaos reigns at the hall

Sue Britain, Annie Hunt and Peter Biggs stake a claim
Picture: Colin Hill

CHAOS reigns as The Once Removed Theatre Company return to the Rose Theatre in Kidderminster.

Their latest production is Out of Focus, by Peter Gordon, set in the annexe of a church hall which has been mistakenly overbooked.

A varied mix of characters turn up, simultaneously, to take part in a Brownie meeting, a badminton game, a table tennis match, auditions for a pantomime and an illustrated talk on steam locomotives – each insisting on a priority booking.

The play runs from February 24-26. Tickets from the Rose Theatre box office: 01562 743745 or on-line www.rosetheatre.co.uk

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Who dunnit? Audience could have put question to Agatha

MYSTERY writer Agatha Christie's Verdict received its World Premiere at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in 1958 before transferring to the West End - the author herself sat in the audience on the very first night.

Now, 53 years on, the play returns to the Grand with actress Dawn Steele leading an all-star cast from Monday for one week only.

Dawn is best known for playing Lexie MacDonald in the hit BBCTV drama Monarch of the Glen and recently starred as Alice Collins in the popular ITV series Wild at Heart, which continues for its sixth series.

She will be joined by Robert Duncan (who played Gus Hedges in the award-winning TV comedy Drop the Dead Donkey) and Ali Bastian, who shot to fame as Becca Dean in Hollyoaks and as Pc Sally Armstrong in The Bill. Ali also reached the semi-finals in the hit BBC show Strictly Come Dancing in 2009.

Brilliant

Other familiar faces in the cast include Matthew Lewis, who plays Neville Longbottom in the Harry Potter movies, EastEnders actress Elizabeth Power and 1960s pop idol turned actor Mark Wynter.

Verdict is one of Christie's few original plays which is not based on a novel or short story. It opened at the Strand Theatre in the West End in May 1958, and ran for 250 performances, before going on to New York.

It tells of the brilliant and idealistic Professor Karl Hendryk, a refugee from persecution in his homeland, whose world is turned upside down by a rich young woman student he is forced to give private lessons to in order to pay for the care of his invalid wife.

Willy Russell's Scouse musical Blood Brothers, with Niki Evans as the long-suffering Mrs Johnstone, continues at the Grand to Saturday.

Three Phantoms - and one Christine - join forces for a night of Phantastic music at Birmingham Hippodrome for one night only on Sunday. The Three Phantoms stars John Owen-Jones, Earl Carpenter and Matthew Cammelle, who between them have clocked up more than 3,000 performances as the star of the West End blockbuster, The Phantom of the Opera. The trio will be joined by the Concert Philharmonic Orchestra, three dancers and special guest Rebecca Caine, who played Christine opposite Michael Crawford's original Phantom.

As well as songs from the Phantom and one from the 'new' Phantom show Love Never Dies, the concert will also include favourites from Les Miserables, Aspects of Love and Sunset Boulevard.

Matthew Bourne's acclaimed dance version of Cinderella, which keeps Prokofiev's magical music but transports the location to London in the Blitz, continues at the Hippodrome to Saturday.

Pontypandy Rocks at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on Sunday at 1.30 and 4pm with little children's favourite Fireman Sam Live. There is a tribute to the late Roy Orbison by Barry Steele and the Platinum Five at the Alex on Thursday, February 24.

Birmingham Rep's first off-site production, Kenny Baraka's one-hour post-apocalyptic tale The Rememberers, is held in a warehouse at the AE Harris Building in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter to Saturday (box office 0121 236 4455).

On Friday and Saturday (February 18 and 19) Kali Theatre will be bringing their production, Gandhi and Coconuts to The Public in West Bromwich town centre.

Starring Sophiya Haque, better known as Poppy Morales in Coronation Street, Gandhi and Coconuts is a witty, playful and poignant play about a lonely wife for whom reality and fantasy begin to blur.

Highlights

British Punjabi storytellers Peter and Gorg Chand tell stories collected and translated from India, with a wedding as the starting point, in Henna at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight (Thursday). Tomorrow night (Fri) at the Arena Flick Ferdinando presents a black comedy about a woman obsessed with equine matters in Horse.

Comedy highlights include radio and TV regular Mark Steel at the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton tonight (Thu). One of Frankie Boyle's favourite comics, Craig Campbell, has sold out his Slade Rooms gig on February 25, as has Geordie comedienne Sarah Millican on the same night at Birmingham Town Hall.

Jason Donovan and Verity Rushworth star in The Sound of Music at Hanley's Regent Theatre until March 5.

Verdict cast members, from left; Dawn Steele, Matthew Lewis and Ali Bastion

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Choice

LET'S DANCE FOR COMIC RELIEF

BBC1, 7pm

Robert Webb and Rufus Hound rounding up the top celebs, but who will follow them into the hallowed footsteps? Think anybody's guess at the moment, but what we do know is that in the first heat, Katie Price, Colin and Austin, Ed Byrne, Pete and Pete and Russell Kane will be bringing to the dance floor. The winner and runners-up following votes by the judging panel and viewers, will then go through to the grand final. All money raised will go to Comic Relief. There's also a chance to see 4LG performing their best ninja. Alan Jones and Steve Jones host.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.
- 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.
- 10.00 Bring Music Enjoy. (R)
- 11.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
- 11.15 Football Focus.
- 12.00 Live Athletics. The UK Indoor Grand Prix.
- 4.40 Final Score.
- 5.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
- 5.20 Question Time.
- 6.40 **All New Wall Of Sports.** Adventure game show in which 20 men and women travel to Argentina to compete in physically demanding games on a purpose-built obstacle course.
- 7.00 **Let's Dance For Comic Relief.** New series. The charity competition returns, with celebrities including Katie Price, Colin and Judy, and Ed Byrne rehearsing freestyle dances. Hosted by Alan Jones and Steve Jones.
- 8.00 **The Million Pound Lottery: Secret Partner.** Quiz show presented by Nick Knowles. A Lucky pub-goer could win £1m in the top prize.
- 9.10 **Casualty.** Women mature from lasting.
- 10.00 **BBC Music Weekly.**
- 10.40 **Live at the Apollo.** Multi-jibe, featuring Michael McIntyre, Al Murray and Dom Joly Brown. (R)
- 11.20 **John Bishop's Britain.** Entertainment show with guests James Corden. (R) National Lottery Live.
- 11.40 **The Football League Show.** Including Nottingham Forest v Cardiff City. Weatherview.
- 12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 Breakfast.
- 9.00 BBC News.
- 9.05 Film: 4 for Texas. (1963) Comedy Western, starring Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra.
- 11.00 Inside Music. (R) Jacqueline: The Director's Cut.
- 11.50 Verdi's Otello.
- 2.00 **Dali's Atoms.** The pioneer faces death by drowning. Comedy starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)
- 2.30 **The Unknown Peacock.** Tribute to the much-loved comic actor Terry Hancock, whose highly successful radio and TV career, from Hancock's Half Hour effectively laid down the ground rules of the sitcom genre. (R)
- 3.00 **Reality in Motion.** Sebastian Faulks examines how writers including Jane Austen and Monica Ali have deployed realism as a secret weapon in their novels.
- 3.30 **The Thelma.** Heavy bunch of Hollywood hits. (R)
- 4.00 **Home Truths.** An elderly patient is found to have been neglected.
- 4.30 **Rome and Love.** Featuring Ruth Brett, Austin Edwards and Ryan Emmis. (R)
- 5.00 **100 Million World Cup Highlights.** India v Bangladesh. Match Winner presents action from the opening match of the tournament, on the Group B match, near the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Bangladesh.
- 6.00 Film: Water. (2005) Premiere. Indian drama, starring Sarah Jane Dias.
- 8.00 Close.

ITV1

- 6.00 CITV. Mr T. CITV.
- 9.00 CITV. Coronation Street.
- 9.30 This Morning. Saturday.
- 12.00 Loose Women. (R)
- 12.30 ITV News; Weather.
- 1.00 You've Been Framed! (R)
- 1.30 Film: Space Jam. (1996) Live action and animated comedy with Michael Jordan.
- 4.00 Regional Programmes.
- 4.30 ITV News; Weather.
- 4.40 Lip. (R)
- 5.10 Football: Manchester United v Crawley Town (kick-off 5.15pm).
- 7.00 **Harry Hill's TV Burp.** Comedy review of the week's and bizarre highlights.
- 7.30 **Auto Bods: Pole to Brilliance.** Last week's winning Bmw returns to the pole in a new set of challengers, hoping to improve the pace in money they have already won.
- 8.00 **This Is Me.** Reality show presented by actor and dancer Ashley Banjo. Dancers from the Ashley Banjo Dance Company, including Hugh Jackson and Patrick Stewart.
- 9.00 **Doctor Who.** Donald's practical joker pal With, concerned, Martin Freeman. Cast to close the lush and the Doctor and companions are leaving home. Stuart Wilkinson guest stars. Last in the series. The new series of Doctor Who begins at 6pm on Friday. (R)
- 10.00 **ITV Local Weather.**
- 10.05 **FA Cup Highlights.** Action from today's fixtures.
- 10.40 The Zone: ITV News Headlines.
- 10.45 Gametown. (R)
- 11.00 ITV Nightscene.
- 11.10 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

- 6.00 The Hotlist. (R)
- 9.00 Athletics.
- 9.30 The Morning Line.
- 10.00 Top Models. (R)
- 10.30 The Wanted: Stars and Strikers.
- 11.00 Top Gear. (R)
- 12.00 Top Models. (R)
- 12.30 I Am Number Four. T4 Movie Special.
- 1.00 T4: Friday Favourites. Top Gear.
- 1.30 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R)
- 2.00 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R)
- 2.30 Changed 4 Racing.
- 3.00 The Secret Supper Club.
- 3.30 Come Dine with Me. (R)
- 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R)
- 4.30 Come Dine with Me. (R)
- 5.00 Come Dine with Me.
- 5.30 Celebrity Michael Bolt. Bolton Michael Bolt hosts the final dinner party in Wolverhampton. (R)
- 6.00 The Polished Stone.
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.
- 7.00 Hollyoaks. Dominic Dwyer's disconnected prejudices toward overweight people.
- 7.30 **FILE 4 Film.** (2000) The human race is defended from a superhuman mutant group by a force of mutant heroes. Bryan Singer's dark comic book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman and Patrick Stewart.
- 9.40 **The Office Period Play Live.** Dom Joly presents the Dawn McCall. Live in the centre.
- 10.40 **FILE 4 Babylon AD.** (2008) Premiere. Sci-fi adventure, starring Vin Diesel.
- 12.40 The Movies. (2002) Fantasy drama, starring Charlize Theron.
- 2.40 Night Windows. (R)
- 3.00 Wisemen Love. (R)
- 3.30 Hours Cope with Death. (R)
- 4.00 Brothers & Sisters. (R)
- 4.30 Pitchpod. (R)
- 5.00 Wizard's Perfect Pitch. (R)
- 5.30 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Michael Jackson.
- 6.30 The Family Recipe. (R)
- 7.00 UEFA Europa League Highlights.
- 8.00 How Do They Do It? (R)
- 8.30 The Gadget Show. (R)
- 9.00 Building the Super Tower Mumbai. (R)
- 9.45 Ice Road Truckers. (R)
- 10.45 Film: The Age of Innocence. (1993) Romantic period drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Michelle Pfeiffer.
- 12.50 Film: Medicine Man. (1992) Jungle adventure, starring Sean Connery.
- 2.50 **Five News.**
- 3.10 **NCIS.** A sailor's body is discovered in a deserted restaurant, and the death initially appeared to be an accidental drug overdose - but Kelly discovers evidence suggesting he was murdered. (R)
- 4.00 **NCIS.** The bravo. Lt. Jethro Gibbs teams up with the help of Petty Lt. Col. Hollis Mann, determined to track down a missing marine. Meanwhile Ducky, who is threatening to unleash a chemical attack. (R)
- 5.00 **CSI: Miami.** A model is electrocuted at a fashion show, and the CSI's quickly determine her death was no accident. (R)
- 6.00 **CSI: NY.** The secretaries to plot a sniper.
- 7.00 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** A teenager is murdered in a cocaine production. (R)
- 8.00 Super Casino.
- 9.00 Cowboy Builders. (R)
- 9.30 Made in Morecambe. (R)
- 10.00 Harold's Helpline. (R)
- 10.30 The Millionaire Show. (R)
- 11.00 Thomas & Friends. (R)
- 11.30 Rocky the Flying Cat. (R)

Digital

ITV2

- 2.00 The Girls Aloud Diary.
- 3.00 Hardcore Holby City.
- 4.00 Coronation Street.
- 5.00 Film: The Bodyguard. (1992) Romantic thriller, starring Kevin Costner, starring Steve Guest.
- 8.00 Film: The Bodyguard. (1992) Romantic thriller, starring Kevin Costner.
- 10.00 Celebrity Juice. Comedy panel show hosted by Keith Lemon.

ITV3

- 2.00 Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead.
- 5.00 Inspector Morse.
- 6.00 Rosemary & Thyme. A wonderfully eccentric double act.
- 7.00 Midsomer Murders. A business executive is murdered. Tom Barnaby is suspicious of his wife's friends. A DIY handyman is found to be hiding a dark secret.

ITV4

- 2.00 Film: Diamonds Are Forever. (1971)
- 4.00 Film: The Cars Boxers. (1974)
- 7.00 The Professionals.
- 8.00 Hit the Work.
- 9.00 Unlock Power.
- 11.00 Film: Glitter. (1998)

BBC THREE

- 7.00 The Real Hustle: on Holiday.
- 9.00 Top Gear: The Jaguar. Jeremy Clarkson drives the Jaguar XJ Sport Saloon.
- 10.00 Film: Blades of Glory. (2007) Ice skating comedy, starring Will Ferrell.
- 11.40 Family Guy.

BBC FOUR

- 7.00 Antiques Roadshow.
- 8.00 Diamonds Golden Age.
- 9.00 The Killing.
- 10.00 How TV Ruined Your Life.
- 11.00 Celebrity Ow.
- 11.30 Low Winter.
- 12.30 BBC A Week in the City Special.

BBC HD

- 10.15 Hollyoaks.
- 11.00 Made in Chelsea.
- 12.00 Rhodes.
- 1.00 Glee.
- 2.00 The Big Bang Theory.
- 2.30 How I Met Your Mother.
- 3.00 Film: The Butterfly Effect. (2004)

FILM 4

- 2.00 Carry On Nurse. (1959)
- 5.00 Nevada Smith.
- 8.00 Film: Lucky Number Slevin. (2006)
- 7.00 The Wedding Date. (2005)
- 8.30 Film: The Special. (2006)
- 10.00 Alive. (2006)

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BBC1

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BBC2

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ITV1

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Channel 4

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Channel 5

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Digital

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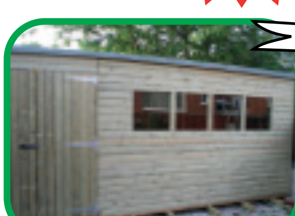

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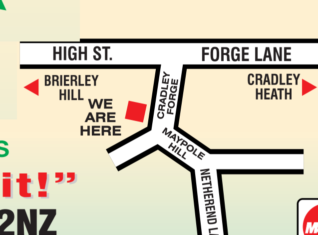

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the pulse

Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 How to Blow a Fortune: Panorama. 9.00 Outcasts. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News. 10.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. 11.05 Late Kick Off. 11.35 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.20 The Apprentice USA. Weatherview. 1.55 Sign Zone: Ancient Worlds. (R) 2.55 Supermarkets – Are We Being Served? (R) 3.55 Save My Holiday. (R) 4.30 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.00 Film: When Zachary Beaver Came to Town. (2003) Family drama, starring Jonathan Lipnicki. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Living Dangerously. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Raymond Blanc: Kitchen Secrets. 9.00 When Teenage Meets Old Age. 10.00 Episodes. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.20 An Island Parish. 12.50 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Lakes. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 The Biggest Loser. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 New Homes from Hell 2009. (R) 11.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 12.05 Grimefighters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV News.

Channel 4 6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Undercover Boss USA. (R) 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Relocation: Phil Down Under. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 The TV Book Club. 12.35 Film: The Gunfighter. (1950) Western, starring Gregory Peck. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Dispatches: The Truth About Hospital Food. 9.00 One Born Every Minute. 10.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. 11.05 Film: Shine a Light. (2008) Premiere. Martin Scorsese's film of the Rolling Stones in concert. 1.15 Music on 4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2011. (R) 1.55 Film: Zatoichi. (2003) 3.50 Film: The Spanish Gardener. (1956) (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.15 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) 3.05 Film: Blessed Stranger: After Flight 111. (2000) Drama, starring Kate Nelligan. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Old TV. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It?; Five News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show; Five News at 9. 9.00 Royal Navy Caribbean Patrol. 10.00 Film: The Exorcism of Emily Rose. (2005) Horror, starring Tom Wilkinson and Laura Linney. 12.25 Forensic Files. (R) 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.05 Divine Designs. (R) 4.30 Great Scientists. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Silk. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Who Do You Think You Are? 11.20 Film: 25th Hour. (2002) Drama, starring Edward Norton; Weatherview. 1.30 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 2.00 Human Planet. (R) 3.00 The Bear Family and Me. (R) 4.00 Save My Holiday. (R) 4.45 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 The Pixar Story. (R) 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Living Dangerously. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 Too Fast to Be a Woman? The Story of Caster Semenya. 7.50 Coast. (R) 8.00 A Farmer's Life for Me. 9.00 Natural World. 10.00 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Mad Men. 12.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Grimefighters. 8.00 Lion Country. 9.00 Taggart. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Demolition Man. (1993) Sci-fi comedy thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone. 12.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.40 Crossing Jordan. 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.10 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Undercover Boss USA. (R) 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Film: The Conqueror. (1956) Historical epic, starring John Wayne. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Gok's Clothes Roadshow. 9.00 Heston's Mission Impossible. New series. The chef tries to solve culinary problems faced by four organisations. 10.00 Shameless. 11.05 The Big C. 11.35 Music on 4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2011. (R) 12.00 Music on 4: Countdown to the NME Awards 2011. (R) 12.15 UK & Ireland Poker Tour. 1.15 Bull Run. (R) 1.40 FIS World Snowboarding Championships. (R) 2.10 Athletics. (R) 3.30 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 4.00 Basketball. (R) 4.55 Powerboating. 5.25 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.15 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Rough Guide to Cities. (R) 3.05 Film: Christy: Return to Cutter Gap. (2001) Drama, starring Lauren Lee Smith. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Old TV. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Extraordinary Dogs; Five News Update. 8.00 Stranded: The Inside Story; Five News at 9. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The boss of a fraud prevention company is suspected of murder. 10.00 CSI: Miami. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 Law & Order. (R) 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.05 Divine Designs. (R) 4.30 Great Scientists. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip Off Britain; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Waterloo Road. 9.00 MasterChef. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Film 2011 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. 11.25 Film: Match Point. (2005) Thriller, with Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Scarlett Johansson; Weatherview. 1.30 Sign Zone: Country Tracks. (R) 2.25 The Chinese Are Coming. (R) 3.25 Save My Holiday. (R) 4.10 Climbing Great Buildings. (R) 4.40 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.05 Film: Anne of Green Gables. (1934) Drama, starring Anne Shirley. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 Lifeline. (R) 1.40 Priceless Antiques Roadshow. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Living Dangerously. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 Top Gear. (R) 8.00 Madagascar. 9.00 A History of Ancient Britain. 10.00 Have I Got Old News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 UEFA Champions League Live. Marseille v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.45pm). 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 UEFA Champions League: Extra Time. 11.35 Police, Camera, Action! (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 Film: Tremors. (1989) Comedy horror, starring Kevin Bacon. 4.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.10 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.30 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Undercover Boss USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Country House Rescue. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Whatever Turns You On. (R) 12.10 Film: The Barbarian and the Geisha. (1958) Romantic drama, starring John Wayne and Eiko Ando. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Beauty and the Beast: Ugly Face of Prejudice. 9.00 The Real King's Speech. 10.00 The Model Agency. 11.05 Shameless. (R) 12.10 Music on 4: Sounds from the Cities. 12.45 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight. 1.00 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. (R) 1.15 Coming Up: Boy. (R) 1.40 Animal Madhouse. (R) 2.35 Food: What Goes In Your Basket? (R) 3.30 Hill Street Blues. (R) 4.15 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.05 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: NY. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.15 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Rough Guide to Islands. (R) 3.05 Film: Out of the Woods. (2005) 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Old TV. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Starlight: For the Children; Five News. 8.00 Cowboy Builders; Five News. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (R) 11.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.55 Poker. 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.05 Divine Designs. (R) 4.30 Great Scientists. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Human Planet. 9.00 MasterChef. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 Film: Dirty Pretty Things. (2002) Drama, starring Audrey Tautou and Chiwetel Ejiofor; Sting; Weatherview. 1.15 Sign Zone: How to Blow a Fortune: Panorama. (R) 1.45 Countryfile. (R) 2.40 Antiques Roadshow. 3.40 Save My Holiday. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Film: Anne of Windy Poplars. (1940) Drama sequel, starring Anne Shirley. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Living Dangerously. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 The Culture Show. 8.00 The Hairy Bikers' Mums Know Best. 9.00 The Spice Trail. 10.00 Victorian Pharmacy. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.20 The Culture Show. (R) 1.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Cyber Wars Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Marchlands. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Odd One In. (R) 11.20 Send in the Dogs. (R) 12.15 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.20 Spartacus. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Supernanny USA. 9.55 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Help! My House Is Falling Down. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Film: The League of Gentlemen. (1960) A retired colonel recruits seven former servicemen to take part in a daring bank robbery. Comedy adventure, starring Jack Hawkins, Nigel Patrick and Richard Attenborough. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Relocation, Relocation. 9.00 Rome Wasn't Built in a Day. 10.00 10 O'Clock Live. 11.05 Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. (R) 12.10 Music on 4: CTRL.MX. 12.40 Music on 4: 4Play: Crystal Fighters. 12.55 Music on 4: 4Play: Caitlin Rose. 1.05 Arthur's Hell on High Water. (R) 2.00 Will My Crash Diet Kill Me? (R) 2.55 The Bed. (R) 3.20 Dispatches: The Truth About Hospital Food. (R) 4.15 Without a Trace. (R) 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: NY. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.15 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Extraordinary Dogs. (R) 3.15 Film: Mystery Woman: Redemption. (2005) Kellie Martin, Clarence Williams III and Nina Siemaszko. 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.15 Neighbours. (R) 5.45 Live UEFA Europa League Football. Liverpool v Sparta Prague (Kick-off 8.00pm). 8.05 Emergency Bikers. 9.00 Film: Mercenary for Justice. (2006) 10.55 The Exorcist: The True Story. (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 4.05 Divine Designs. (R) 4.30 Great Scientists. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Wreck or Ready? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Deadly 60. (R) BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 QI. (R) 9.00 New Tricks. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.30 Film: High Crimes. (2002) Thriller, starring Ashley Judd; Weatherview. 1.25 Sign Zone: South Riding. (R) 2.25 The Chinese Are Coming. (R) 3.25 Horizon: The Secret World of Pain. (R) 4.25 Rip Off Britain. (R) 4.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.10 Film: Cinderella. (1965) Fairytale musical, with Lesley Ann Warren and Ginger Rogers. 1.00 Due South. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Living Dangerously. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Flog It! Ten of the Best. 4.30 Perfection. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 My Life in Books. 7.00 The Culture Show. 7.30 An Island Parish. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Britain from Above. (R) 9.00 Hidden Treasures of Australian Art. 10.00 Fast and Loose. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.50 Film: Shadow of the Vampire. (2000) Horror, starring Willem Dafoe and John Malkovich. 2.10 BBC News. 4.55 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Children's Hospital. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Benidorm. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Cube. (R) 11.35 Take Me Out. (R) 12.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.40 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.10 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Supernanny USA. 9.55 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Gok's Clothes Roadshow. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Jamie at Home. (R) 12.30 Film: Bless This House. (1972) British comedy, starring Sid James. 2.10 Cookery School. 3.10 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.25 4thought.tv. 7.30 Teen Horse Whisperers. 8.00 Relocation: Phil Down Under. 9.00 Embarrassing Bodies. 10.00 Friday Night Dinner. 10.30 Lee Evans: Big – Live at the O2. (R) 11.35 10 O'Clock Live. (R) 12.40 Music on 4: CTRL.MX. (R) 1.10 Music on 4: 4Play: Boxer Rebellion. 1.20 My Name Is Earl. (R) 2.05 Modern Toss. (R) 2.30 Film: Powwow Highway. (1988) Drama, starring A Martinez and Gary Farmer. 4.00 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.45 Great British Brands. (R) 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.00 The Vanessa Show. 11.45 CSI: NY. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.15 Street Market Chefs. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) 3.05 Film: Sorority Wars. (2009) 5.00 Five News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Home and Away. (R) 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Vets in Action. (R) Five News Update. 8.00 Ice Road Truckers; Five News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. (R) 10.00 Law & Order. 10.55 NCIS. (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 3.55 Motorsport Mundial. 4.20 Royal Navy Caribbean Patrol. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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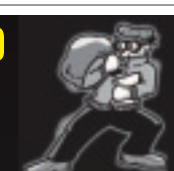
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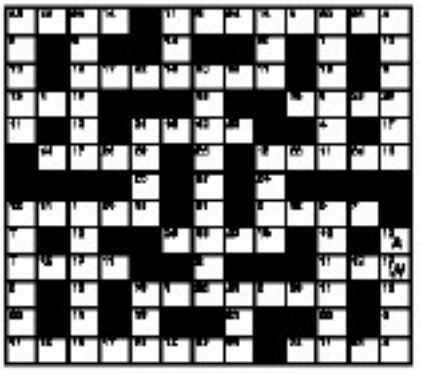
Brain Gym

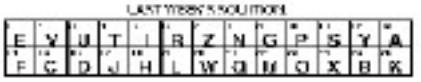
No.104

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different number of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letters to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



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Double Crossword

Choose either the quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Mad to meet, hold [illegible] (3)
8. To gym with [illegible] (7)
9. It's [illegible] (7)
10 & 17 Across. Poison symbols [illegible] (5,3,3,3)
12. They should [illegible] (10)
15. Made a key change [illegible] (4)
16. [illegible] (9)
19. [illegible] (7)
21. It's next [illegible], [illegible] (7)
22. [illegible] (7)

Down

1. [illegible] (10)
2. [illegible] (7)
3. Find [illegible] (8)
4. [illegible] (6)
5. [illegible] (8)
6. One 14 Down [illegible] (4,4)
11. [illegible] (6,4)
13. [illegible] (7)
14 & 6 Down. [illegible] (7,7)
18. [illegible] (7)
20. [illegible] (4)

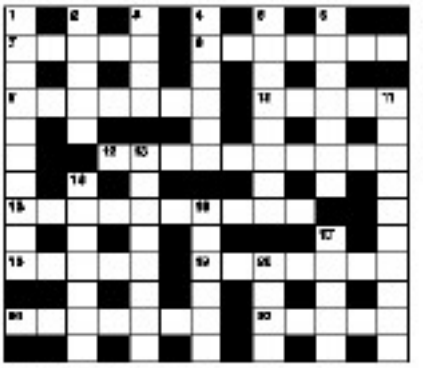
Quick Clues:

Across

7. Roll (3)
8. [illegible] (7)
9. [illegible] (7)
10. [illegible] (7)
12. [illegible] (10)
15. [illegible] (10)
19. [illegible] (9)
19. Take [illegible] (7)
21. [illegible] (7)
22. [illegible] (5)

Down

1. On [illegible] (10)
3. [illegible] (8)
4. [illegible] (6)
6. [illegible] (7)
11. [illegible] (10)
13. [illegible] (8)
14. [illegible] (7)
16. [illegible] (6)
17. [illegible] (5)
20. [illegible] (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

CRYPTIC: [illegible]

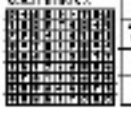
QUICK: [illegible]

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that each row, each column, each nine and each of the bold boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

8		7		2	3		9	4
			7		6		8	
	5					3		
		8		6		8		
2	9				5			1
	4	8		7		5		
7							3	
		1	6		7			
	8		1	5		7		6

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that this letter with each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What unit are the three words, and what is the expression held by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

The letter represented by the question mark is N. Reference: Growing Tomatoes, All Creatures.

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QUICK CROSSWORDS
CODEWORD SUDOKU
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the pulse

The delirious joy of Janelle

FANS of American R&B have a chance to catch a rising star when Janelle Monae appears in concert at the Birmingham HMV Institute on Friday, February 25.

Her debut album was nominated for two awards at Sunday's Grammy awards, including best album for The ArchAndroid, and the young singer has created a stir with her delirious blend of R&B, acid funk and skewed pop.

No one else sounds quite like her but Kelis, Outkast and Cee Lo Green perhaps come closest.

Janelle Monae – rising star

End of the road

BIRMINGHAM rapper/urban poet Mike Skinner makes his last appearance as The Streets in his home city at the O2 Academy on Friday night, February 25, following the release of his fifth and final

Mike Skinner

Streets album Computers and Blues. The former Sutton Coldfield College student is best known for the 2004 hit single Dry Your Eyes from his second album A Grand Don't Come For Free.

All over for Europe

IT'S The Final Countdown for fans of melodic hard rock when Swedish rockers Europe, who had a massive hit with that song in the mid 1980s, come to the Birmingham O2 Academy tomorrow (Friday) as part of their tour in support of new album Last Look At Eden.

Reviews

Matthew Bourne's Cinderella, Birmingham Hippodrome

MATTHEW Bourne and his New Adventures dance company have kept Prokofiev's romantic music and the barest outline of plot but have otherwise completely reinvented Cinderella as a dark romance set at the height of the London Blitz.

This is a grown up fairy tale, a passionate cinematic tale of brief encounters and dancing like there is no tomorrow because at any time a bomb may mean there is no tomorrow. It is a tribute to London of the 1940s, locations such as Oxford Circus Underground and Paddington Station are recreated in Lez Brotherston's impressive art deco sets.

It is also a tribute to the movies of that era. The prominent tone is a silver screen monochrome, Michela Meazza's elegantly evil stepmother is Joan Crawford-like and such classics as A Matter of Life and Death and Brief Encounter are influences. The ballet is framed by newsreels and the recorded orchestra presented in cinema style surround sound.

Bourne's choreography has a sexy physicality, as much influenced by jive as classic ballet and reveals flashes of grotesque humour. The fairy godmother becomes a silver haired male hoofer with Fred Astaire moves who takes Cinders to the dance in a motorcycle and sidecar; the prince is a wounded airman who meets prostitutes and rent boys during his quest with the slipper; and Cinderella's disfunctional family includes a step-brother with a foot fetish. Christopher Marney (The Angel), Sam Archer (Harry the pilot) and Kerry Biggin (Cinderella) were very good indeed

Bourne doesn't do traditional but he does do thrilling, daring and romantic.

Leon Burakowski

Alexandra Burke, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

X FACTOR winner Alexandra Burke bounced onto the stage at a near-full Civic Hall for her All Night Long tour, clearly moved by the thunderous welcome she received from her devoted fans. Dressed in the first of many risque outfits, she was later joined on stage by the customary four shirtless male dancers (a bit of eye candy for the ladies). With an abundance of confidence and with amazing vocals, her command of the stage was evident right from the start. Backed by a brilliant band and two girl singers, her opening song Broken Heels, immediately had the audience eating out of the palm of her hand.

Delivering a good mixture of high energy belted-out ballads and catchy dance hits ,she had the ecstatic audience up on their feet,clapping and dancing to her frequent insistence to make some noise. Pop R&B hits Start Without You, Bad Boys, All Night Long and her breathtaking version of Hallelujah, as well as a vibrant Destiny Child medley were outstanding. A classy lady with a classy act.

Les Jowett

Count Arthur Strong's Command(o) Performance. The New Alex, Birmingham

COUNT Arthur Strong is the greatest variety star there never was. Notwithstanding someone turning the New Alexandra Theatre around to face the wrong way without telling him, the cult comedy star displayed his cantankerous short temper and dyslexic command of the English language along with a constant stream of Malapropisms which make Doctor Spooner sounds as erudite as Stephen Fry. Rarely sober or in touch with reality, the count, as Johnny Vegas said via a video screen, has worked with some of the biggest names in showbiz, shame he upset so many of them.

Ably hamstrung by sidekicks Terry Kilkelly as Malcolm and Renee and Dave Plimmer as Alan Leslie, the count, aka Stephen Delaney, lets rip on anyone called Michael with a verbal tirade worthy of Ronnie Barker.

The count has that rare ability not really seen since the days of Tommy Cooper et al to stand there doing nothing and still have the audience in fits of laughter. With his parody of Can't Cook, Ready Steady Bloody 123, which never really formulated into a full title, he tried his hand at wine tasting using his sophisticated Pontius palette, who apparently fiddled while Rome burned.

Staggering around the stage like some geriatric throwback to the great days of variety, the count drags the old format kicking and screaming into the 21st century, lubricating the transition with liberal amounts of wine and various other alcoholic beverages. You haven't lived until you see him act out facing Dracula and keep him talking until daybreak sees the vampire's 'testasticles' rolling down the hill.

Oh, and should the count offer to let you drain his spuds I suggest you decline – if you can stop laughing long enough.

Danny Farragher

The Saturdays, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

WHAT better way to spend Valentine's Day than with your loved one – and the five loveliest ladies in pop. Una, Mollie, Frankie, Vanessa and Rochelle even chose their Headlines tour to bring the news of a new tour in December.

But first this one. The concert began with a Duck Sauce-style Barbra Streisand register of names from people in the audience. And from the moment the girls took to the stage with the upbeat Higher, the whole place was rocking. There was also a rousing finale in the form of Ego.

In between, all the hits like Up and Work all received a rapturous welcome, but for me the best harmonies were reserved for Lose Control, Puppet and the Poppy Day single Here Standing.

The quintet – and we all have our favourites – are more than just pretty faces. All can sing and there were well-choreographed dance moves. They also showed they can slow the pace down with a version of the Eminem/Rihanna song Love the Way You Lie. Two other Rihanna covers followed with What's My Name and Only Girl. Died in Your Eyes saw Una playing guitar.

Video footage filed in between costume changes – there were two of them during the main set – while the girls carried balloons on stage for the Comic Relief single I Just Can't Get Enough. Another costume change preceded the encore, which before the big Ego finish, featured Forever Is Over and Missing You.

New boyband Twenty Twenty provided the support.

Mark Shipp

Book: Lily Alone (hardback, Doubleday, 12.99)

YOUNG Lily is left to look after her siblings – six-year-old twins and a three-year-old sister – when her mum goes on holiday with her boyfriend and her step dad fails to turn up. Desperate to avoid school or social services finding out, and wanting to avoid the flat getting too untidy, she comes up with a plan to go on a camping adventure in the park.

An intriguing set up for Jacqueline Wilson's latest children's novel, which the hugely popular writer handles in her assured no-nonsense style, blending comedy and tragedy and prompting young readers to think about responsibility. Illustrations by Nick Sharratt.

DVD: Buried (15, Icon)

IF you suffer from claustrophobia you had best avoid Buried, out now on DVD and Blu-ray, but do watch if you like an innovative, against-the-clock thriller. Ryan Reynolds plays an American truck driver ambushed in Iraq and buried by insurgents in a coffin, with only a mobile phone and a Zippo lighter at his disposal. He knows he has a limited amount of oxygen, the battery life of his phone is dwindling, and he is being held for ransom.

Director Rodrigo Cortes's cameras never leave the coffin but make a virtue of their limitations as the viewer empathises with the kidnap victim's utterly terrifying plight . . . especially when he's put on hold!

Blood Brothers, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

HAVE you heard the story of the Johnstone brothers? Which means Blood Brothers is back. This emotional masterpiece by Willy Russell is guaranteed to pull at your heart strings, have you laughing and applauding like crazy.

A mix of drama, comedy and song brilliantly performed by a strong and talented cast. The moving story of twins who are separated at birth and whose lives end in tragedy, is set in the backstreets of Liverpool.

Niki Evans gives an excellent performance as Mrs Johnstone and has a fabulous vocal range. Sean Jones and Paul Davies superbly played endearing twins Mickey and Eddie. Craig Price is a clear and competent narrator.

It has poignant songs such as Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and, of course, the tear-jerking final one, Tell Me It's Not So, which had the entire audience on its feet for a well deserved standing ovation. Mention must also go to the orchestra and sound engineer for a first class job.

Les Jowett

Punt & Dennis, Town Hall, Birmingham

THEY first came to prominence on The Mary Whitehouse Experience. But while Hugh Dennis has continued to be a regular TV feature on programmes such as Outnumbered and Mock the Week, much less has been seen of his comedy partner.

The two have revived their partnership for the first time in four years for their They Should Get Out More tour. Disabilities, ghosts and wines of the world were among the topics covered, complete with a lot of audience interaction – and all to great comic effect. I wonder what Mary Whitehouse would have made of it all?

Mark Shipp

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22 Oak Street in Netherton has a large, P-shaped conservatory offering views of the rear garden

A large garage ideal for additional storage

NUMBER 22 Oak Street in Netherton presents a rare opportunity to acquire this traditional, three-bedroomed residence which is ideally situated close to local amenities.

Taylors estate agent is marketing the residence, inviting offers in the region of £154,950 with no upward chain involved in the sale.

Approach to the house is via an asphalt driveway with a footpath leading to an entrance hall with doors to a storage area and guest WC.

Panelled

The living room measures 12ft x 12ft and has an open fire with surround, television, telephone points and patio doors leading to the conservatory.

Of a P-shaped construction, the conservatory measures 18ft 4in x 10ft 1in and has a tiled floor, plumbing for a dishwasher, door to the garage and French doors opening to the rear garden.

With a range of cupboards with rolled-edge worksurfaces, is the kitchen, which has doors to the rear garden and measures 11ft x 9ft.

On the first floor landing there is access to the roof space, an airing cupboard, three bedrooms and bathroom.

The master bedroom measures 11ft 11in x 11ft 1in, the second 10ft 8in x 10ft 11in and the smallest, 11ft x 10ft. All the rooms include a double-glazed window and a radiator. The bathroom comprises a white suite with panelled bath, shower, low-flush WC, pedestal wash basin, tiled walls, radiator and uPVC double-glazed window to the side.

Once outside, the rear garden is a particular feature.

It is mainly laid to lawn with enclosed fenced boundaries, borders and a range of mature trees, shrubs and plants, a paved patio and water feature. To the front is a driveway with off-street parking, which in turn leads to a garage measuring 4ft 7in x 11ft 6in. It has an up-and-over door and also features plumbing for a washing machine.

Viewing comes highly recommended by the agent.

For further information, visit the website at www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk or to arrange a viewing, contact the agent on 01384 265265.

French doors open from the spacious lounge and provide access to the conservatory

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HOLENDENE WAY, WOMBOURNE

An extremely well presented four bedroom detached property location in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise: Reception hall, lounge, dining area, kitchen, four bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing. UNFURNISHED. Available: Now
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An extremely well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, wc, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom.
UNFURNISHED DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£795 PCM

HERONDALE ROAD, WOLLASTON

A beautifully presented two bedroom detached bungalow situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of reception hall, fitted kitchen with dining area, sitting room, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and garage. The property also boasts a lovely rear garden and countryside view. Viewing highly recommended.
Unfurnished DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£650 PCM

LYNWOOD AVENUE. WALL HEATH

A traditional semi detached bungalow which enjoys a highly sought afterposition within this prestigious address, offering an exeptionally spacious and very well proportined layout of accommodation which is further enhanced by this delightful setting including a generous driveway to the fore together with a well maintained rear garden.
UNFURNISHED DSS: No Children: Yes Pets: No Smokers: No

£595 PCM

SUFEIT HILL ROAD, CRADLEY HEATH

A spacious improved two bedroom semi detached bungalow occupying a pleasant position with double glazing and requiring internal inspection. Comprising: Inner hall, delightful lounge with feature fireplace, farmhouse style kitchen, double glazed conservatory, two good sized bedrooms, attractive re-fitted bathroom, good sized detached garage and low maintenance rear garden extending to the side.
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

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DEAN ROAD, WOMBOURNE, WOLVERHAMPTON

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UNFURNISHED DSS: No Children: Yes Pets: No Smokers: No

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COPPICE ROAD, CRADLEY HEATH

A well presented Two Bedroom house in a popular location. Accomodation comrpises: Lounge with gas fire, Diner also with gas fire, Kitchen with both wall and base units and additional storage room. Bedroom Two has fitted wardrobes and Bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from double glazing and both front and rear gardens.
UNFURNISHED. CHILDREN: Yes PETS: No SMOKERS: No DSS: No.

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HIGHFIELD ROAD, COLLEY GATE

A very well presented Two Bedroom End Terrace Property in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom and Two Double Bedrooms. The property further benefits from GCH, double glazing, rear garden and block paved fore garden. DSS No Children: Yes Pets: No Smokers: No

£495 PCM

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Unfurnished/Furnished DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£425 PCM

FOXDALE DRIVE, BRIERLEY HILL

A very well presented One Bedroom House in a popular residential location. Accomodation comprises Lounge with electric fire, Kitchen with both Oven and Hob, Bedroom with storage and Bathroom with a white suite and Shower.
UNFURNISHED
DSS: No. PETS: No. CHILDREN: No. SMOKERS: No.

£425 PCM

THE BROADWAY, NORTON

A very well presented two bedroom first floor apartment in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Communal entrance hall, Private entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, kitchen with beech effect units and granite effect roll top, two bedrooms and bathroom with white suite. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN:MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS:NO

£400 PCM

VICTORIA COURT, VICTORIA ST., BRIERLEY HILL

An extremeley well presented one bedroom first floor apartment, situated close to Merry Hill and Brierley Hill town centre. The accommodation comprise of Lounge, fitted kitchen, one bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from off road parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£385 PCM

BRIDGNORTH ROAD, WOLLASTON

A one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property benefits from double glazing and electric heating. UNFURNISHED DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£375 PCM

ST GEORGES ROAD, NETHERTON

An extremely well presented one bedroom starter home with easy access to Dudley Town Centre. Accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and majority double glazing. UNFURNISHED DSS:NO PETS:YES CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:YES

£375 PCM

FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented two bedroom first floor apartment in a convenient residential location.
Accomodation comprises: Communal Entrance Hall with staircase to first floor landing, private Entrance Lobby, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen being fitted with a range of units and freestanding cooker, Two Bedrooms with Bedroom One having fitted wardrobes and Bathroom having suite with shower over bath. The property further benefits from Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking and shared bin store. Part Furnished
DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£375PCM

DOVE DRIVE AMBLECOTE

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment sitiuated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from storage heating, double glazing and allocated parking and communal gardens.
Unfurnished DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£370PCM

TEMPLE STREET, LOWER GORNAL

A spacious one/two bedroom first floor flat situtated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Communal Entrance, Lounge, bedroom dining room/bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. UNFURNISHED DSS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES Pets:NO SMOKERS: No

£350 PCM

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THE WORKSHOP, TOYS LANE, HALESOWEN

Single storey brick built workshop premises previously used as joinery workshop and apparently with 3 phase electricty. Height to eaves is approximately 9" 7" (2.9 m) with entrance doors, w.c. and lean to, corrugated sheeted storage area and shared gated access. Gross internal area: Workshop approximately 847 sq ft (79m/ sq.m)Lean to approximately 461 sq.ft (43m sq.m) All offers considered

£250 PCM

MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS
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Skoda Yeti 1.8 TFSI

ROAD TEST

Big footstep, but a modest thirst

WE HUMANS like order and regularity. Obviously the odd bit of creative chaos is a nice thing to experience, but we are creatures of habit and are somewhat cautious of the new and the different. Trouble is that can mean we're missing out just because templates are rigid and unyielding.

Cars used to fit neatly into such templates. There were saloons, hatchbacks and estates and that was pretty much it. We were all happy with that too, somehow we all managed fine with one of those options, but thankfully the idea of a little mixing and matching soon took hold.

Skoda has a bit of history in this department too, with the Roomster playing the role of a supermini-cum-MPV with a bit of estate thrown in, and despite it sounding like an unholy mix it makes a lot of sense.

The tricky second album is the Yeti – perhaps so-named as this is another creature that isn't quite one thing or another.

The Yeti sticks one foot in the camp marked 'SUV' thanks to the tough exterior. It has the raised ride height, chunky wheels and even chunkier bumpers that look suitable for barging obstinate foliage out of the way.

The cabin is spacious and practical

Consecutive

You can also have it with four-drive too, so it really can hit the beaten track with confidence. But the Yeti is quite clearly a car: it doesn't tower over pedestrians or demand two consecutive parking spaces at the side of the road. Length-wise it's somewhere between Fabia and Octavia but is nearly as wide as the Superb, and the reality is that for most people that is more than enough.

It gets better still on the inside. For starters there's no need for a step ladder to climb aboard – your kids will be able to manage by themselves.

Once inside, there's more successful blending going on. You sit in slightly elevated fashion with a large windscreen in front of you for a splendid view out, but it's still more car-like than bus-like, and the appealingly simple dashboard layout is just what is expected from a Skoda.

Anyone could climb behind the wheel and feel at home and unfazed, which is surely the name of the game.

In terms of cabin and boot space the Yeti pulls off a passable impression of an estate car: rear seat space is very good while the boot is usefully square and tall, with the option of boot dividers for extra practicality.

It has a conventional tailgate too which can even double as shelter if you're outdoors and the weather turns tricky. Despite this very sensible approach to creating a useable and practical car, the Yeti is certainly not adverse to a little playtime.

The Yeti is very rapid but sips fuel

Although the diesel-engined versions make a very good case for themselves, the 1.8-litre TFSI engine proves the petrol still has plenty to offer.

For starters it is a remarkably rapid thing, with 158bhp on offer it can haul the Yeti from 0-62mph in a shade over eight seconds and keep pushing to 124mph but still sip fuel when required: the combined fuel consumption figure of 35.4mpg for a four-wheel drive petrol car of this performance is quite an achievement.

The chassis is also up for the task of helping you exploit the performance. With an engine that's keen to rev, a very slick six-speed gearbox with a pleasing action to it and steering that is both accurate and sensitive without being hyperactive makes for a practical car that achieves the holy grail of being fun to drive too.

The Yeti is functional and can be used for all sorts of tasks – and performs them well

Of course, the on-demand four-wheel drive system provides extra reassurance and the ability to use the performance in all sorts of weather.

But this is not a performance car at heart; it is a car to be used every day, for all sorts of tasks and to be as undemanding as possible. That it manages to do all those things so well is proof that an automotive cocktail can be real treat.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Model: Skoda Yeti 1.8 TFSI Elegance 4x4
Price: £22,320
Engine: 1.8-litre petrol producing 158bhp and 184lb.ft of torque
Transmission: Six-speed manual gearbox driving all four wheels
Performance: Top speed 124mph, 0-62mph in 8.4 seconds
Economy: 35.3mpg combined
Emissions: 189g/km of CO2

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CITROEN	NEW C3 1.6 HDI AIRDREAM	SILVER	01/09/2010	£15,510	£11,290	£4,220
CITROEN	DS3 1.6 THP DSPORT	RED	01/09/2010	£17,370	£13,899	£3,471
CITROEN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90 MPV EXCLUSIVE	BLACK	18/06/2010	£17,625	£11,999	£5,626
CITROEN	C4 1.6 HDI 90 VTR+	GREY	01/03/2010	£17,065	£10,999	£6,066
CITROEN	C5 SALOON 2.0 HDI 163 VTR+ NAV	WHITE	29/11/2010	£23,295	£16,999	£6,296
CITROEN	C4 G PICASSO 1.6 HDI 110 EGS VTR+	RED	01/09/2010	£22,065	£14,999	£7,066
CITROEN	NEMO 1.4 HDI 70 LX VAN	WHITE	28/05/2010	£11,557	£6,999*	£4,558
CITROEN	BERLINGO 1.6 HDI 75 LX VAN	BLACK	06/09/2010	£12,925	£8,999*	£3,926
CITROEN	DISPATCH HDI 90 PANEL VAN	SILVER	12/07/2010	£16,655	£9,999*	£6,656
CITROEN	RELAY HDI 120 35 HEAVY LWB PANEL VAN	WHITE	29/07/2010	£24,390	£14,999*	£9,391
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CITROEN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90VTR+	BLACK	31/01/2011	£15,725	£11,499	£4,226
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HYUNDAI	i10 1.1 EDITION 5DR	BLUE	15/03/2010	£8,975	£6,499	£2,476
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HYUNDAI	i10 1.2 CLASSIC	BLACK	29/09/2010	£8,295	£6,299	£1,996
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HYUNDAI	i20 1.2 EDITION 5DR	BLUE	29/03/2010	£11,850	£9,299	£2,551
HYUNDAI	i20 1.4 CRDI STYLE 6SP	BLACK	08/09/2010	£14,025	£11,499	£2,526
HYUNDAI	i30 1.4 CLASSIC 5DR	SILVER	25/03/2010	£14,000	£8,799	£5,201
HYUNDAI	i30 1.4 EDITION 5DR	SILVER	24/06/2010	£13,425	£10,499	£2,926
HYUNDAI	i30 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM	BLUE	03/09/2010	£17,245	£12,999	£4,246
HYUNDAI	i30 1.6 CRDI PREMIUM	BLACK	06/09/2010	£17,245	£12,999	£4,246
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HYUNDAI	ix20 1.4 CRDI STYLE	GREY	22/11/2010	£15,825	£12,999	£2,826
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IS Series prices start from £24,865 OTR. Model shown IS 200d Advance costing £25,605 OTR including optional metallic paint at £610. Price correct at time of going to press and inclu number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. †9.9% Representative APR over 3 years on Lexus Connect Contract Purchase available on IS 200 IS 250 Advance, when ordered between 4 January and 31 March 2011 and registered and financed between 4 January and 31 March 2011, through Lexus Financial Services, Great Burgh Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage ch 30,000 at 12 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Subject to availability. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services.

IS Series fuel consumption figures: urban 16.3-44.8 mpg (17.3-6.3 L/100km), extra urban 33.6-64.2 mpg (8.4-4.4 L/100km), combin mpg (11.60-5.1 L/100km). CO_2 emissions combined 270-134 g/km.

Motor Market

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02 Reg	**BMW 316Ti SE COMPACT** Silver, Climate Control, Alloys, CD, FSH	£3995	£24
56 Reg	**CHEVROLET KALOS 1.2 S** Blue, CD, Low Insurance, FSH	£2995	£17
06 Reg	**FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE** Red, A/C, CD, 5-door, FSH, 28k	£4495	£28
06 Reg	**FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi LX** Bronze, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£4495	£28
06 Reg	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX TDCi 90** Blue, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£4495	£28
06 Reg	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC** Blue, Alloys, A/C, CD, FSH	£5495	£33
04 Reg	**MINI COOPER 1.6 CHILLI PACK** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half leather sport seats, glass roof, FSH	£5995	£36
02 Reg	**MG ZR 1.4 105** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Spoiler, PX to clear	£1995	N/A
03 Reg	**PEUGEOT 206 1.1 LOOK** Silver, A/C, CD, low insurance, px to clear	£1995	N/A
08 Reg	**PEUGEOT 207 COUPE CABRIOLET 1.6 SPORT.** Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, 25k	£7995	£48
57 Reg	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4 HDi** Silver, A/C, CD, 5 door, £30 Year Road Tax	£5995	£36
07 Reg	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4 URBAN** Black, A/C, CD, 5-door	£5495	£33
53 Reg	**PEUGEOT 307 2.0S HDi** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3495	£21
53 Reg	**PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi ESTATE.** Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£3495	£21
05 Reg	**PEUGEOT 307 1.4 X-LINE** A/C, Alloys, CD, Silver	£3995	£24
56 Reg	**PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi SE** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4995	£30
56 Reg	**RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V EXTREME** Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4495	£28
05 Reg	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi DYNAMIQUE** Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 year road tax	£4495	£28
55 Reg	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.9 DCi DYNAMIQUE** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4295	£26
55 Reg	**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE** Beige, 2006, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3495	£21
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53 Reg	**RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 EXPRESSION MPV** Gold, A/C, CD, 38k	£3495	£21
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57 Reg	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CLUB** Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 39k	£5295	£32
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56 Reg	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi 16V CLUB.** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4995	£30
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55 Reg	**VOLKSWAGON PASSAT 1.9 SE TDi** Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£6495	£38
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Blue Oval to unveil electric Focus, hybrid C-Max and new technology at the Swiss event

Ford puts four on show at Geneva

The new Ford Vertrek compact SUV, being shown at Geneva, indicates the design direction of the next generation Kuga SUV

The cabin of the special edition Metal Ka

The eye-catching Metal Ka arrives in April

THE 81st Geneva Motor Show will be the stage for a series of major new vehicle and customer focused technology announcements by Ford.

The Ford show stand in Geneva will be packed with four new additions to its upcoming product range and highlighting exclusive Ford technologies designed to significantly enhance the driving experience.

Ford of Europe chairman and chief executive Stephen Odell will unveil a new vehicle, while Alan Mulally, Ford's chief executive, will make a special appearance by video during the news conference from Hanover, Germany, where he will be delivering a keynote speech at CeBIT, Europe's largest technology show.

Mr Odell said: "Today Ford has its strongest product line-up ever and we've got an aggressive plan to keep our vehicle portfolio the freshest in the industry.

"We have at least 20 new models and derivatives coming across our entire European range – from small cars to commercial vehicles – and at Geneva we will be introducing some of these."

Ford also plans the European debut of the C-Max Energi, a pre-production version of a plug-in hybrid.

Ranger Wildtrak

The all-new Ford Ranger Wildtrak will make its international debut at Geneva – a sporty compact pickup that delivers impressive power and safety, excellent fuel efficiency and significant capability.

Due to go on sale in the UK towards the end of this year, the new Ranger will feature a range of class-leading safety and "smart" technologies to make it easier, safer and more fun to drive than ever before.

Vertrek Concept

Ford's vision for a sleeker, sportier and more stylish compact SUV makes its European debut at the 2011 Geneva Motor Show. First shown at the North American International Auto Show in January, the Ford Vertrek concept signals the direction of the next-generation Kuga, with leading design and fuel efficiency.

All-new Focus Electric

The all-new Focus Electric, Ford's first-ever all-electric passenger car, was also unveiled at Detroit and is due for launch in Europe in 2012.

The zero emission, fuel-free, version of Ford's popular compact car will be a flagship for the company's growing fleet of hybrid, plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles.

New Metal Ka

Ford's small car has a new eye-catching styling scheme. The new Metal Ka is part of Ford's Individual programme. The Metal Ka will come to the UK in April.

Fiesta RS World Rally Car

Ford's all-new Fiesta RS World Rally Car in full team livery will be displayed at the Geneva Motor Show, straight from its debut appearance at Rally Sweden, first round of the 2011 World Rally Championship.

Lower emissions for large cars

Ford is boosting its flagship large car family with a new 114g/km CO2 Mondeo Econetic and a range of additional powertrain enhancements for its Mondeo, S-Max and Galaxy models.

Wraps ready to come off hybrid

TOYOTA will unveil the next major advances in its hybrid power technology strategy at the Geneva Motor Show in March.

The occasion will mark the world debut of Yaris HSD, a new concept heralding a production model that will bring Toyota full hybrid power to the supermini segment – Europe's largest market sector.

The Yaris HSD concept incorporates hybrid-specific styling cues and new design elements. Prius+ will also be unveiled at Geneva, the first car to offer European customers seven seats and full hybrid power.

The Toyota Prius has been named as one of the winners of the 2011 Best Car for the Money awards by US News.

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NISSAN NOTE 1.4 VISIA 57 Reg.Electric blue, CD Player, 30k, FSH	£4995
PEUGEOT 207 1.4 M-PLAY, 57 Reg, 3-dr, Bright Red, A/C, 18k	£5295
FORD MONDEO EDGE 130 TDCi 56 Reg (07), 5-dr, Machine Silver, Climate, Alloys, 55k, FSH	£5495
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VAUXHALL AGILA 1.0 EXPRESSION 09 Reg. Bright Red, CD Player, 14k, FSH	£5795
FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO 07 Reg. 5-dr. Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 31k, FSH	£6295
PEUGEOT 407 SW 2.0 HDi LUX PACK 06 Reg. Silver, panoramic roof, half leather, air con, alloys, 55k, FSH	SOLD
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi EXCLUSIV ESTATE 57 Reg, Black Sapphire, Air Con, 47k, FSH	£6795
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TOYOTA PRIUS T4 VVTi AUTO. 07 Reg Gold, Air Con, Alloys, 69k, FSH, 1 Owner	£7495
JAGUAR X TYPE S DIESEL 56 Reg. Black, 1/2 Leather, Climate, Alloys, 40k, FSH	£8295
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TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTi 51 Reg. Silver, Leather, Air Con, Alloys, 91k, SH	£2995
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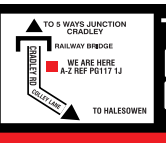

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 41.5 - 42.8 (6.8 - 6.6), Extra Urban 56.5 - 60.1 (5.0 - 4.7), Combined 50.4 - 52.3 (5.6 - 5.4). CO2 emissions: 130 - 125 g/km. Offer applicable to model Jazz 1.4 ES 2010 and 2011 model years only, Cash Price £12705, Deposit 35% £4447, Amount of Credit £8258, Interest rate 0% APR REPRESENTATIVE, Credit fee £0, Option fee £0, Duration 24 months, Monthly Amount £344, Total Amount Payable £12705, APR 0%, Terms and conditions : Offer only available for orders placed on the17th February through to the 28th February 2011. Cars must be taxed by the 30th of March 2011 Subject to model, colour and stock availability, certain grades may be limited. £1,000 Saving is off the 2011 'on the road' price. Honda Hire Purchase (HP): Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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LOSTÑ Wolverhampton/ Dudley area on February 5 silver and marcasite tortoise brooch. 01902 766342. Reward for return.

LOSTÑ Yorkshire Terrier dog, Low Hill area, Sunday February 6. Recently trimmed. Reward. 07787 988495.

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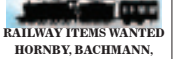

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JAGUAR XJ6 3.2, auto, 95(N), full leather, 12 months MoT, tax, superb inside/out. £950 ono. 01543 450669 / 07747 882956.

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07906 764866 / 07542 971804.

LANDROVER SWB truck Cab, Ifor Williams Canopy, turbo 90 diesel engine, tax exempt, MoT, £1,250 o.n.o. 01902 651968.

MERCEDES E200 1996, silver, Mot -Tax, SR, low miles, private plate included, very good condition. £895. o.n.o. 01384 872394 (Kinver)

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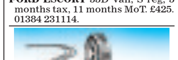

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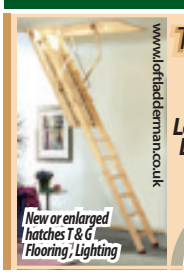

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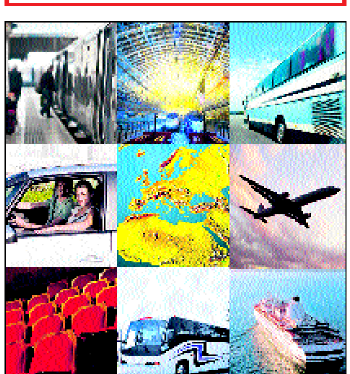

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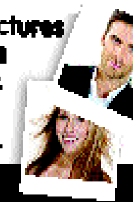

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women seeking men

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PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 352351

SHROPSHIRE lady 48, slim, attractive, N/S, seeks attractive male, 5ft 11ins plus for good times, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 352481

50'S divorced nurse seeking dark skinned man for meals in, sitting in the back row, hand holding and TLC. ACA. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 359189

SHROPSHIRE lady, 57, likes countryside, sea, travel, cooking, sewing, lived on farm, seeks special genuine gent for nice match. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 334241

SLIM attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, lady. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 359187

FED up with lonely nights! Blonde blue eyed, no children/ties, WLTM someone for cosy nights in and TLC. Any age/location. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 359185

BRIGHT bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, come and find me. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 359295

50YR old attractive confident business woman, frequently in area seeks older gent for mutual spoiling, pampering and adult fun. ACA. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358137

I'M still single! Waiting for a nice guy of any age to sweep me off my feet. I'm fun loving and looking for a good time. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 357147

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 353428

CURVY intelligent young widow 58, blue eyes, short dark hair, lovely figure, seeks tall lively male to enjoy life's pleasures with. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 353429

HI I am Ellen 45, attractive with someone curvy figure looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358135

FRIENDLY outgoing, sociable lady, 38 but looks mid 20's (so I'm) WLTM adventurous male (18 – 35), I'm open to most suggestions, happy to try most things. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 355781

WHITE 50's genuine medium West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks affectionate male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358855

40'S lady, lovely curves, solvent but lonely, seeks nice older male to pamper, enjoy fun and affection with. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358135

30YRS old curvy black female seeks older male for cosy nights in. ACA Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 357143

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358399

LONELY blonde widow with no ties, looking for love and romance again with lots of TLC, WLTM similar man. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 355247

SOPHIE 29 generously proportioned lady who loves all of her curves, looking for nice older male for good times and nice conversation. ACA. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358139

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 353979

YUMMY mummy looking for gent with GSOH to put much needed fun back into my life. No pressure just good honest fun. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358283

ATTRACTIVE 50's lady looking for a good man. Loving, tactile and sensitive can you put the spring back in my step? ACA. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358289

VERY lonely young looking 40's female, solvent, GHAC, seeks younger male for chilled together. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358287

CARING and honest lady 51, 5ft 2ins, WLTM very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 357985

CONFIDENT full figured and all woman, likes cosy nights in with that special person, looking for friendship maybe more. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358133

GORGEOUS 28yr old independent female with lots to offer to the right person, seeks similar. Willing to travel. Any age/colour welcome. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358141

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 357919

FEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358781

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 327573

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, 55, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH and enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358411

OPEN friendly Christian female, professional, seeks kind, caring, Christian male for friendship and more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 348887

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, retired male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 313115

SLIM attractive 48yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 341497

ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, trendy, no ties, high morals, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 316819

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 3ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 337399

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 327579

LADY N/S, car owner, seeks lonely retired gent with old fashioned values for friendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 354183

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 301001

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 329319

men seeking women

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 85125 (T&C's below).

STEVE 37, medium build, seeks female for nights in, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358381

SOUL girl wanted, age 45-55! Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358855

ACTIVE 38yr old, slim, dark hair, loves life, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 352753

CHARMING fit 41yr old professional male, seeks lively, caring companion for friendship and fun. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358945

52YR old male, fit, young looking, seeks female for wining/dining, days out and apsl. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358837

YOUNG male, seeks female for romance and relationship. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358785

RICHARD easygoing, slim, blue eyes, brown hair, likes meals out, pubs, karaoke, nights in, music, seeks likeminded, laidback, bubbly female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358833

TALL handsome male, 41, GSOH, likes romantic days/nights in/out, WLTM attractive, down to earth, young lady 35-55, size unimportant. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 348811

MALE 44, medium build, likes motorsport, seeks special lady. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 348227

FRANK tall, distinguished, mature, professional gent, seeks warm, responsive, lady for friendship. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358801

MALE late 40's, hurt in past, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358451

48YR old male, own home/business, likes singing, seeks happy female to spoil. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 323803

MALE 38, 5ft 9ins, medium build, honest, reliable, trustworthy, seeks similar female, 35-45. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 317403

32YR old guy, likes music, cooking, joking, seeks female, 30-35 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 332365

MARK 34, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, easygoing, honest, hardworking, likes sports, music, cinema, seeks special lady to share life with. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358871

NORTH Shropshire widower, medium build, loving, caring, honest, seeks smart female, 50-70 for special relationship. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358833

TALL fit good looking friendly guy with GSOH, 49, seeks adventurous lady for fun only, daytime liaisons Halesowen. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358747

MALE 49, N/S, seeks female to sparkle back into life. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 353781

DAVE 49, own home, likes pubs, clubs, dancing, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 337729

WEST Bromwich male 43, 5ft 8ins, fair hair, hazel eyes, seeks female, 30-45 for relationship. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358843

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, 45, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeks attractive female with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358437

BRIAN 5ft 11ins, medium build, likes shooting, golf, tennis, rugby, seeks female for friendship and to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358353

FRIENDLY outgoing, sociable guy bit naughty, seeking a special female for love and romance. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358089

COUNTRY gent, 58 with own pink coach called Lydia, seeks fit, blonde, dance instructor 32 to travel together. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358139

HANDSOME male, 41, tactile, romantic, likes meals out, days out, walks, nights in, seeks sensitive, intelligent female, 38-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 322561

FIT handsome, male, 40, GSOH, seeks lady, 38-48 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 385180

55YR old male, 5ft 11ins, widower, laidback, old school gent, likes history, reading, places of interest, seeks female. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358381

ATTRACTIVE British male, 38, seeks slim, attractive, caring female for friendship, hopefully LTR. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 227154

gay/friends seeking

BI curious male, 48, seeks dominant mature male for discreet fun. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 358089

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 11ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 317892

GAY male, 55, seeks similar gay male, 18-40 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 438 8582 Box No: 355307

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